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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you agree with the $250 million price tag set by lawmakers in the sale of CUC's power plants?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

11 DAYS without a government budget for FY 2009

INSIDE

Virgin Birth

Scientists have confirmed the second case of a "virgin birth" in a shark.

NATION...Page 10

Peso Rebounds

The peso rebounded Thursday after the central banks of five major countries launched coordinated interest rate cuts.

MAHARLIKA...Page 12

Erratic Era

Britney Spears herself wonders what happened to her during her erratic era.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 21

For those of us in the private sector with a retirement fund, we're just caught in a maze right now. People will tell you not to make any changes but in the mean time, you're watching your fund go down, down, down.

—Marian Aldan-Pierce, head of DFS Saipan Ltd.

Wall Street turmoil hits NMI

RELATED NEWS

Swagger turns to shudder a year after market high.

PAGE 9

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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BUSINESS EDITOR

Shock waves from the carnage on Wall Street have touched off a reaction in the CNMI, diminishing employee retirement accounts, freezing foreign investment plans, and threatening to hinder major projects that local leaders depend on to bolster the islands' economy.

On Thursday, one year to the day after hitting an historic high, the Dow Jones industrial average plummeted 7.3 percent to

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MARKET WATCH

- Dow Jones industrial average fell 7.3 percent
- Japan's Nikkei 225 index fell 9.6 percent
- Hong Kong's Hang Seng index fell 7.2 percent
- South Korea's Kospi fell 4.1 percent
- Manila's PSE Index fell 8.3 percent
- Shanghai's benchmark fell 4.1 percent
- Singapore's Straits Times index fell 7.0 percent
- Australia's S&P/ASX200 fell 6.8 percent
- Britain's FTSE 100 index fell 7.1 percent
- France's CAC 40 fell 8.6 percent
- Germany's DAX fell 9.2 percent

AP

Specialist Justin Bohan holds his head as he works at his post on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, Thursday Oct. 9, 2008.

NIGHTMARE ON WALL STREET

Crisis spreads as Dow plunges 679 points

By TIM PARADIS and MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP BUSINESS WRITERS

NEW YORK (AP)—A stampede of selling that began in the waning minutes of trading on Wall Street spread to Asia on Friday, deepening a financial crisis that has defied all efforts to stop it.

Thursday's anniversary of the stock market peak turned into one of the worst days in Wall Street history, with the Dow Jones industrials loosing a breathtaking 679 points.

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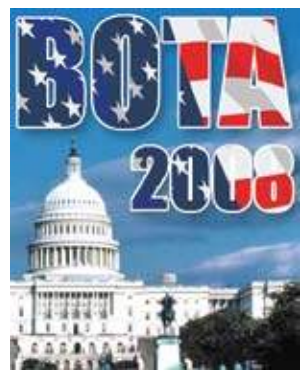
Source: Reuters — The New York Times

Economy, power crisis top priorities of delegate bets



By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

The candidates for congressional delegate faced off Wednesday evening on issues including the economy, immigration, environment, education, and power service.

Eight of the nine candidates showed up for the forum organized by local youth organizations. Sen. Luis Crisostimo, who skipped a similar forum initiated by the Kagman Komunidat Association last month, did not participate.

The two-hour forum followed a question-and-answer format, whereby each candidate got a turn at answering every question

See ECONOMY on Page 4

Miura finally flown out

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

After more than seven months in detention at the Department of Corrections, Kazuyoshi Miura was finally flown out of the CNMI early yesterday morning to face trial in California for the alleged

See MIURA on Page 4

Media personnel surround the van carrying Kazuyoshi Miura and LAPD detectives on their way to the Saipan airport early yesterday morning.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

$1M Koblerville waterworks project completed. **PAGE 2**
Workshop spurs Tinian aquaculture project. **PAGE 5**

Local

$1M Koblerville waterworks project completed

A $1 million federally funded waterworks project is now complete.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, joined by two federal officials, led a ribbon cutting ceremony for the finished project in Koblerville yesterday.

The project involved the enclosure of 44 electrical control panels for water wells and 25 chlorination stations by retrofitting chain link fences into solid concrete structures for added protection.

The project cost $993,000. Of this amount, $293,000 came from the Covenant Section 702 capital improvement project funds, and $70,000 from the Department of the Interior's grant funds. The rest, some $630,000, came from the Federal Emergency Management Agency's hazard mitigation grants secured after Typhoon Chaba hit the islands in 2004.

The CNMI Water Task Force administered the project. YCO Corp. was the contractor.

Fitial said the completed project "further affirms the CNMI's commitment to prudently use federal funds for the benefit of our island community."

"This administration is pleased to support infrastructure development for the Commonwealth," said Fitial. "Infrastructure development, through the use of federal capital improvement project funds, is a high priority for our administration. It is an important component of our economic development, and successful projects such as this only further us along."

AGNES E. DONATO

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, far right, leads the ribbon cutting for the newly completed waterworks project in Koblerville. Joining the governor are, from left, Antonio Muna, executive director of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., Jesus Yumul, president of the contracting firm YCO Corp., Tom Bussanich, budget director at the U.S. Office of Insular Affairs, and Charlie Stern, a program examiner at the U.S. Office of Management and Budget.

Vicky Villagomez, the CNMI's CIP coordinator, said the Commonwealth government has a pending grant application for the second phase of the project, which will involve the enclosure of 67 more water well control panels and chlorine stations.

Villagomez said the estimated cost of the project is $800,000. FEMA is expected to provide 75 percent of the needed funding, and the CNMI government is looking to the Interior Department to supply the other 25 percent.

Tom Bussanich, budget director at the U.S. Office of Insular Affairs, and Charlie Stern, a program examiner for the Office of Management and Budget, attended the ribbon cutting ceremony. ***(Agnes E. Donato)***

Fitial vetoes reserving public lands on Tinian

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has vetoed a bill designed to reserve certain public lands on Tinian for agricultural homesteads and commercial uses, saying it is against the Constitution.

The vetoed legislation proposed to give the Tinian mayor, the Tinian municipal council, and the Tinian legislative delegation authority over 524 hectares of public land on Tinian.

Fitial, in his veto message to the Legislature, said that the measure violates Public Law 15-2, the statute that created the Department of Public Lands and designated it as the agency responsible for the administration, use, leasing, development, and disposition of public lands.

More importantly, the governor said, the bill violates the Constitution, which designates the management of public lands to the Executive Branch. The measure, he noted, would change that constitutional mandate, as it will allow Tinian officials to share management authority.

"Therefore, approval would be meaningless as it would be unenforceable," Fitial said.

The bill proposed to reserve some 140 hectares in the Chalan Famalao'an area for commercial and other purposes, as determined jointly by Tinian's mayor, municipal council, and legislative delegation. About 40 hectares of the area will be reserved for agricultural or residential homestead lots. In addition, the bill proposes to designate 384 hectares in the Pina area for agricultural homestead lots.

Proponents of the legislation maintain that certain areas must be reserved for commercial use, as there is a limited amount of public lands available on Tinian and there must be resources available for future economic investment opportunities. They also note the long list of Tinian residents who have been waiting for agricultural homestead lots.

OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION
Statewide Independent Living Council
FY '09 1st General Membership Meeting
P.O. Box 501521 SAIPAN, MP 96950
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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the public is advised that the Statewide Independent Living Council will hold its FY 09 1st General Membership Meeting Wednesday, October 15, 2008 at Giovanni's, Hyatt Regency Saipan at 9:00am-1:00pm. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

I. Welcoming

II. Preliminary Items
- Review and Adoption of Agenda
- Review and Adoption of Minutes of 09/29/08

III. New Business
- Election of New Officers
- Response to RSA Monitoring Review

IV Announcements

V Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodations such as large print or sign language interpreters, are asked to call 322-6537(voice) or 322-6449(TTY). Please contact Magin Iginoef (Council Liaison) two days in advanced for necessary arrangements.

Publication of this notice is paid for with federal funds made possible by the United States Department of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS)

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

NMC International Honor Society officers Roxanne Ferrer (president) and Nerine Villagomez (acting P.R.) wait for interested students to fill-up application for membership.

NMC honor society expanding membership

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Officers of the Northern Marianas College International Honor Society is encouraging interested students to join the group and avail of the many benefits of being a member.

The organization's president, Roxanne Ferrer, said this is part of their expansion effort.

A booth had been put up at the NMC hallway for interested students to fill up application forms.

Ferrer said there are currently nine active members of the Society, including the other officers, Lorna Manahane (vice president), Nerine Villagomez (acting public relations officer) and Diane Mallari (member).

Ferrer said her group has been active in community service.

They recently painted the bus stop in Chalan Kiya.

Phi Theta Kappa, an international honor society for two-year colleges, was founded in 1918 and is the largest and most prestigious honor society recognizing academic excellence around the world.

Ferrer said the society would benefit members in their quest for academic and leadership excellence at NMC and beyond.

A minimum of 3.5 cumulative GPA is required for any student wanting to join the society.

They should have competed 15 credit hours of college-level courses (110 level and above) and they must not have a D or F for a class, unless retaken with C or higher.

Members will have the opportunity to serve the college and the community, develop leadership and enjoy camaraderie, wear the PTK regalia and receive recognition at graduation and a chance for a scholarship to a four-year college.

The deadline for submission of application forms will be next Friday, Oct. 17.

Scholarship benefits include $36 million in transfer scholarship offered to PTK members by more than 600 four-year colleges and universities, $130,000 in scholarships awarded annually by PTK, automatic inclusion in PTK's new comprehensive transfer preparation program and letters of recommendation sent to college admission counselors.

'WHERE'S MY SEAT?' JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

A passenger looks for his seat number inside the Northwest Airlines aircraft heading to Saipan from Japan's Nagoya Airport.

Preparations for Education Month underway

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Education Commissioner Rita Sablan said a committee has been tasked to prepare for the annual celebration of Education Month in November.

The committee, headed by David Bucher, met for the second time yesterday afternoon to discuss several activities and the formulation of the proclamation that would be signed later.

The actual Education Day celebration will be on Nov. 26 but the committee wants to hold a month-long series of activities, according to Saipan Southern High School principal Peter James Le'au.

Le'au, who was chairman of last year's celebrations, said that with the new leadership of the Public School System in place, "we want a new image of PSS."

Compared to previous years when they only had a daylong event and gave special recognition to outstanding teachers, this time there would be daily activities for everyone in the community to take part in, Le'au said.

He said they want to project a more positive image that would have an impact on the community.

"We want the 20 schools, along with the five departments of PSS, to be actively involved," Le'au said.

Yesterday's agenda included brainstorming on the theme for this year, mechanics of the essay writing competition, and the annual awards. They also discussed the logo for the event.

As the past, there would be the Teacher of the Year, Support Staff of the Year and Teacher Aide of the Year awards.

Le'au said they need the support of private companies. "We will be soliciting help from sponsors," he said.

He said they are planning to have the winning essays published in newspapers.

Le'au explained that all those who became chairmen of the committee that prepares the annual event are former teacher of the year awardees.

In his case, one of his teachers at Southern High, Andrew Golden, was the 2006-2007 islandwide award winner.

Bucher, a science teacher at Kagman High, was the Teacher of the Year in school year 2007-2008.

Chamber gears up for delegate forum

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is gearing up for a candidate forum Tuesday next week where voters will have a chance to hear the nine candidates vying to serve as the CNMI's nonvoting delegate in Washington, DC, answer questions from the business community.

The forum—set to take place at the Fiesta Resort at 6:30pm Tuesday—will follow an unorthodox format. Chamber members, students from the Northern Marianas College and members of the chamber's board have all submitted questions, according to the chamber's executive director, Kyle Calabrese. Each question will be selected at random and posed to one candidate. The event will likely be the first time all of the candidates have attended a public forum at the same time, he added.

"The reason for the format is that if you have nine people answering the same question, you'll maybe get through one and a half questions before the forum is over and the ninth person is probably going to be limited in what they might say," Calabrese said, adding that chamber members have mostly submitted questions that address business and economic issues.

Moderating the forum will be Jon Anderson of Bridge Capital. Candidates will have two minutes to answer the questions they are asked. Calabrese said chamber staffers Friday were reviewing the questions submitted.

To attend the forum, tickets for adults are $15 in advance and $20 at the door. Students with identification may purchase tickets for $7 in advance and $10 at the door. Proceeds will support the Chamber's educational projects and other programs. Tickets may be purchased at the Chamber office on the first floor of the Family Building on Garapan Street, in Garapan. ***(Stefan Sebastian)***

PSS to hold 3-day accreditation institute

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

The Public School System will be holding an accreditation institute on Oct. 22-24, according to Education Commissioner Rita Sablan.

The PSS Board of Education, however, will still decide on where they will hold the three-day activity, which is in preparation for the visit of accreditation officials from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges this school year.

Sablan explained that the goal of this institute is for PSS to help the schools prepare for the WASC visit.

"We are inviting the private schools to attend the institute," Sablan said.

The three-day activity will also give the PSS leadership a chance to review what the principals are doing to improve their schools, Sablan stressed.

WASC is recognized as one of six regional associations that accredit public and private schools, colleges, and universities in the United States.

The Western region covers institutions in California and Hawaii, the territories of CNMI, Guam, American Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau, the Pacific Basin, and East Asia, and areas of the Pacific and East Asia where American/International schools or colleges may apply to it for service.

Meanwhile, the WASC Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges is set to visit the Northern Marianas College on Nov. 3-5.

The commission has ordered NMC to provide reasons by then why its accreditation should not be terminated.

NMC's annual report is due next week, Oct. 15.

Earlier, the commission identified several major points in which NMC failed to address problems.

Next year, the commission will have a meeting, where they will decide based on the recommendation of the visiting team whether to reaffirm or terminate NMC's accreditation.

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WALL

From Page 1

close at 8,579.19, the first time it has fallen below 9,000 in five years. Thursday's drop marked the seventh straight day of losses for the Dow, which has slipped 21 percent since Oct. 1.

At Saipan's branch of the investment firm Ernst and Young, Nhing Reyes said some of her clients have taken a substantial hit as stock values have dropped but the impact of this recent plunge on employees' 401(k) retirement funds is affecting more people.

Marian Aldan-Pierce, head of DFS Saipan Ltd., also pointed to the trouble the financial crisis poses for retirement plans, saying many of her employees are watching the stock market closely to see whether the 401(k) funds they have accumulated might survive.

"For those of us in the private sector with a retirement fund, we're just caught in a maze right now," she said. "People will tell you not to make any changes but in the mean time, you're watching your fund go down, down, down. A lot of our employees are worried about this."

The CNMI Retirement Fund, the government's employee pension program, is expected to see substantial losses this month in light of the stock market's decline, according to administrator Mark Aguon. Yet the impact on the fund, he said, will likely be less severe than that seen in the market due to the fund's efforts to diversify its assets and even convert some of its stocks into cash to prevent serious losses.

"The majority of our assets are still in the stock market and the market is taking a beating," he said. "But, the loss for the Fund probably won't be as bad as what you see in the market itself."

An executive with the investment firm Merrill Lynch, he added, will give a presentation to the Legislature Tuesday on the status of the Fund. The presentation will be open to the public.

Meanwhile, Wall Street's downturn has already hit the CNMI's tourism industry by contributing to a record decline in the value of the Korean won in comparison to the American dollar. Korean tourism accounted for roughly a quarter of the visitors who traveled to the CNMI in the last year, according to statistics from the local tourism office, but hotels are now reporting Koreans are spending less on their island vacations because the won's buying power is weaker.

However, the won's downward slide—which reached its lowest point in a decade Thursday at 1,425 won per U.S. dollar—holds the potential to have far more serious consequences if it continues. Over the last eight days, the dollar's value compared to the won has risen an estimated 40 percent.

"You can expect to see a freeze in Korean investment until this gets resolved because nobody's going to want to invest overseas when you have to pay 40 percent more," said Alex Youn, president of Ace Investment Group, adding that the fallout over the won could stifle Korean-backed real estate deals. "On the street, I'm hearing that a lot of real estate investors are just waiting for the won to stabilize."

And investment capital for new development projects appears in short supply in the CNMI due in large part to the stock market's turmoil, a factor that threatens to stall scores of major construction efforts on the horizon that some leaders have touted as a way to revitalize the now stagnant local economy.

Phillip Mendiola-Long of the Bridge Investment Group, a firm now in the early stages of developing one of those projects—a multi-million dollar resort on the island of Tinian—said investors are all warning that ripple effects from Wall Street's woes could hinder such plans in the future.

"We are seeing a tightening in capital available for developments," he said. "This means large developments going forward will have a difficult time getting financing or private equity funding for project development."

To Mendiola-Long, the solution is a stimulus plan for the CNMI's economy crafted through cooperation between the government and the private sector.

"Lock the leaders in the room, invite the business community and prospective investors and hash out what needs to be done in order to save our economy," he said. "Our economy needs a stimulus plan...the leaders need to put that front and center now or we are going to be reeling from the lack of planning and action and then looking at each other to say: 'What happened?'"

CRISIS

From Page 1

U.S. stocks lost more than 7 percent, $872 billion of investments evaporated, and the Dow fell to 8,579. When the average crashed through the 9,000 level for the first time in five years in the final hour of trading, sellers had only begun to hit the gas pedal.

As bad as the day was, even worse was the cumulative effect of a historic run of declines: The Dow suffered a triple-digit loss for the sixth day in a row, a first, and the average dropped for the seventh day in a row, a losing streak not seen since 2002.

"Right now the market is just panicked," said David Wyss, chief economist at Standard & Poor's in New York. "Nobody wants to take on any risk. Everybody just wants to get their money and put it under the mattress."

The panic quickly spread overseas, where Asian stock markets plummeted Friday. Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 index shed more than 10 percent, Hong Kong's Hang Seng index lost more than 8 percent, South Korea's Kospi fell 7.4 percent, Shanghai's benchmark gave up 4.1 percent, and Singapore's Straits Times index was down 7.0 percent. In Syndey, Australia's S&P/ASX200 was down 6.8 percent.

Thursday's sell-off on Wall Street took place one year to the day after the Dow closed at its record high of 14,164. Since that day, frozen credit, record foreclosures, cascading job losses and outright fear have seized the market and sapped 39 percent of its value.

Paper losses for the year add up to an staggering $8.3 trillion, according to preliminary figures measured by the Dow Jones Wilshire 5000 Composite Index, which tracks 5,000 U.S.-based companies representing almost all stocks traded in America.

It was the second straight day that Wall Street was rocked by a final-hour sell-off, but this one was particularly shocking.

Most of the day was relatively calm, and the trading floor was quieter than usual because of the Jewish holiday of Yom Kippur. Wall Street awoke to news the federal government was brandishing a new weapon against the financial crisis—considering seeking an equity stake in major U.S. banks in order to stabilize them.

But that step appeared to be as ineffectual as the others Washington has rolled out in recent weeks, including a $700 billion bailout of the financial industry, a coordinated interest rate cut by central banks around the world and direct lending by the Federal Reserve to private companies to provide them with short-term cash.

Wall Street has been teetering on the brink of panic for a month now, vulnerable to any bad news.

MIURA

From Page 1

murder of his wife 27 years ago.

Transporting the 61-year-old Miura from DOC in Susupe to the Saipan airport went smoothly, with local law enforcement agencies assisting the four Los Angeles Police Department detectives who were here to escort the Japanese businessman to California.

"I'm satisfied that it's finally over. Now he [Miura] will deal with Los Angeles," assistant attorney general Jeffery Warfield Sr. told the media shortly after the Continental Airlines plane carrying the businessman left for the first leg of his journey—Saipan to Guam.

Nearly 50 Japanese reporters, cameramen and crew members representing six TV stations, three newspapers and one magazine covered the event.

Some tailed the LAPD detectives led by Rick Jackson from the Hyatt Regency Saipan, where they were staying, to the Susupe prison. Other journalists were already waiting in the vicinity of the prison, while others were posted at the airport.

Jackson's group put Miura inside a van just before 2am and a marked police car led the convoy of about eight vehicles for the 10-minute trip to the airport. Media vehicles were quick to follow the convoy.

At 2:10am Miura's convoy arrived at the right wingside gate of the airport. As the marked police vehicle was preparing to enter the airport's gate, the van carrying Miura was surrounded by cameramen and photographers. After a few minutes, the convoy went inside the airport's gate.

At 3:30am, ports police officers escorted the media toward the tarmac where they had a good angle of Miura walking toward the plane. Miura was wearing a black jacket, white shirt, black slacks, and a black baseball cap.

Passengers, mostly Japanese media, were directed to first board the plane. Miura was the last to walk inside, escorted by LAPD detectives, ports officers, and immigration officers. Warfield also joined the escort. Miura boarded the plane at 4:23am.

Warfield later told the media that they're glad that things went well and there were no incidents that night.

"We were concerned that there might be security problems, but everybody worked well together so we appreciate everybody's cooperation," he said.

The prosecutor said it's been a long case—almost eight months—and that they're finally glad that it has come to a conclusion, at least here in the CNMI.

"But again he will have his day in Los Angeles," Warfield said. "We're very satisfied. As we said back in February, we knew this day would come."

Miura, 60, was convicted in Japan in 1994 of the murder of his wife, Kazumi, but the verdict was overturned by Japan's high courts 10 years ago.

Cold-case detectives from the Los Angeles Police Department, however, believe that they have a case against Miura and worked with CNMI and Guam authorities to arrest him when he visited Saipan in February this year.

CHRONOLOGY OF MIURA'S EXTRADITION

Feb. 22: Local authorities arrest Miura at Saipan International Airport after learning he is a suspect in the murder of his wife in Los Angeles 27 years ago.

Feb. 25: Miura is taken to the Superior Court for bail hearing. Associate Judge David A. Wiseman sets no bail.

Feb. 27: Wiseman orders Miura to hire his own lawyer.

March 3: Miura's lawyers, Mark B. Hanson and Bruce Berline, assert that the detention of the businessman is illegal and that the court should immediately release him.

March 5: Superior Court Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona rules that Miura's arrest was lawful.

March 9: Miura retains pop star Michael Jackson's attorney, Mark J. Geragos, as L.A. counsel.

March 12: Gov. Benigno R. Fitial signs the arrest warrant for Miura's extradition.

March 17: Miura's legal counsel discloses that Geragos made a double jeopardy argument in California in a motion to dismiss the case.

March 19: Manglona grants Miura's request to give him a month to file a petition for habeas corpus in challenging the extradition case filed against him.

April 17: Miura's defense team and the Attorney General's Office agree to ask the court to allow a two-week extension for Miura to file his petition for habeas corpus. Manglona grants the request.

May 2: Manglona grants another extension for Miura to file a petition following the parties' request.

May 28: Manglona allows Miura to file a motion to allow him to post bail.

June 6: Manglona resets the bail modification hearing and status conference to June 19 at the request of Miura's lawyers.

June 19: Manglona denies Miura's request to allow him to post bail.

July 15: Miura appeals to the CNMI Supreme Court Manglona's decision denying his request to allow him to post bail.

Sept. 12: Manglona denies Miura's petition for habeas corpus and orders his extradition.

Sept. 15: The CNMI Supreme Court grants Miura's request to hold off the Superior Court's order for his extradition, while his appeal is pending. That night four LAPD detectives arrived on Saipan supposedly to pick up Miura.

Sept. 23: The CNMI Supreme Court affirms the Superior Court's ruling that ordered Miura's extradition.

Sept. 24: Miura's lawyers file an emergency motion asking the CNMI Supreme Court to stay Miura's extradition while he pursues further proceedings in federal court.

Sept. 26: U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex Munson grants Miura's emergency motion for a stay of the Superior Court's decision that ordered his extradition.

Sept. 29: Miura withdraws his petition for a writ of habeas. Berline said California is now free to come and escort their client.

Oct. 10: LAPD detectives take Miura from DOC and escort him to California.

ECONOMY

From Page 1

asked. The questions were not provided to the candidates before the forum.

Asked what they consider to be most important issue facing the Commonwealth, the candidates put the struggling economy and the power crisis on top of the list.

Former Election Commission executive director Gregorio Sablan said the economy should be the priority of the CNMI's first-ever congressional delegate. If elected, Sablan said, he will strive to influence federal policies on economic issues such as the CNMI's access to Chinese and Russian tourists and the ability of local businesses to be part of the multibillion-dollar military buildup in Guam.

Washington Rep. Pete A. Tenorio said the CNMI's problem is a mixture of expensive power rates, high cost of living, unemployment, and unstable business environment.

Former Sen. David Cing said the economy is the CNMI's largest challenge. He blamed foreign workers and foreign businesses, which he accused of underreporting their taxable income and taking money away from the Commonwealth.

The lack of basic services such as drinkable water and affordable and reliable power must be addressed before anything else, according to businessman Chong Won.

For Saipan municipal council member Felipe Atalig, the CNMI government should focus on getting its Section 702 funding restored to $27 million a year. Section 702 of the Covenant provided for an initial seven-year period of $27 million financial assistance to the CNMI Government. Since a new agreement was executed in 1992, the CNMI has received $11 million a year for capital improvement projects.

Retired judge Juan Lizama said the CNMI's political relationship with the United States is "something that should not be treated lightly," and must be given top priority.

The candidates were also asked their views on the lawsuit filed by the governor against the U.S. government over the new immigration law. Most candidates expressed belief that the CNMI government, instead of pursuing legal action, should work the with U.S. government in drafting the regulations that will implement the new federalized immigration system. As television talk show host John Oliver Gonzales said, the key is "consultation, communication, and collaboration."

Only Atalig spoke in support of the lawsuit. "My fellow Americans," he addressed the crowd at the Multi-Purpose Center, "federalization is a violation of our rights. I support Governor Fitial, my younger brother, that we must sue the U.S. government."

Additional scholarship opportunities for the CNMI's youth was also a topic of discussion at the forum, which was organized by the Office of Youth Affairs, The Associated Students of the Northern Marianas College, and the CNMI Youth Congress.

The candidates, with the exception of high school teacher John Davis, promised to create more opportunities for the youth. The CNMI students, according to Davis, "do not need more opportunities. There are more opportunities available here than anywhere in the states. All our kids have to do is go out and get them. We don't have to do everything for them."

Sablan and Gonzales appeared to have made the biggest impression on youth voters present at the forum. Students interviewed after the forum noted Sablan's preparedness and Gonzales' ability to articulate his plans.

Christine Lely, 24, a student at Northern Marianas College, said she was impressed with Sablan's good ideas. She added that Gonzales seemed to be in touch with the people's problems.

Steven Morales, 19, also an NMC student, said he came to the forum undecided about whom to vote for. But after listening to the candidates, he narrowed down his choice to Sablan and Gonzales. "Their responses are right to the point. The other candidates sound like they're not really answering the question," he said.

Workshop spurs Tinian aquaculture project

Only several weeks ago did Tinian resident Melvin Crisostomo first approach Michael Ogo, aquaculture specialist at the Northern Marianas College-Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service, to inquire about farming shrimp during the Opportunities in Aquaculture workshop held on Saipan in July.

Just three months later, he and his partners, Gerald Crisostomo and Hiromitsu Iwashita, have released the first 2,000 post larvae shrimp into his tanks Friday, Oct. 3. The shrimp, which came from the University of Guam's Aquaculture Development & Training Center, will be ready for harvest in March 2009.

In addition to the shrimp, Crisostomo and his partners are planning to raise different varieties of tilapia. They have already released the first batch of about 50 tilapia. The tilapia are expected to lay their eggs after about three months and are expected to reach a marketable size within four to six months. A second batch of 200-300 pieces is projected to be released soon.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Local aqua farmer Melvin Crisostomo releases his first batch of tilapia on Oct. 6.

To spur the tilapia's growth, Crisostomo and his partners grow kangkung, a semi-aquatic leafy vegetable, in the same aquaponic setting. The kangkung will act as a filter, as it takes the waste from the tilapia and converts that into nutrients. The vegetable will also, of course, make a great side dish for the tilapia.

At the moment, the partners plan to grow the shrimp and tilapia for their own consumption. For now, they see their endeavor as a pilot project, but hope to be expanding their operations to include the production of value and brood stock for local markets and possibly providing fresh delicacies at their own restaurant, the Island Garden Restaurant in Tinian's San Jose Village.

The operation has three tanks available—two 6 ft. x 7 ft. and one 16 ft. x 9 ft.—which were all converted from pigpens. All that had to be done was to plaster the walls and fit in all the required piping and filters. This strategy helped to keep their start-up costs low.

"This experience has been both challenging and enjoyable, and we are looking forward to harvest time when we can truly appreciate the fruits of our labor," said Melvin Crisostomo." This project may not have been a success without the support and guidance of the NMC-CREES."

The aquaculture farmers had guidance from NMC-CREES extension agent Lawrence Duponcheel on Tinian who consulted them on the construction of their tanks. The scientific background and consultation on managing the fish farm came from aquaculture specialist Ogo.

"This is a great example of how NMC and CREES are transferring research-based knowledge to help develop practical and even profitable business opportunities in the CNMI," said NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez.

Ogo pointed out that Crisostomo's enterprise is already the fourth aquaculture venture in the CNMI. He is glad that this highly profitable industry is finally getting a foothold on our islands and hopes to see more farmers starting in aquaculture.

For more information on this project, or aquaculture in general, contact NMC-CREES at 234-5498 ext. 1705/07/08 or visit the website http://crees.org/. ***(NMC)***

Poker companies sued for illegal termination, unpaid wages, OT

A former general manager of companies that operate 12 poker arcades and other businesses in the CNMI filed Thursday a lawsuit in federal court against his former employers for alleged unpaid wages and overtime.

Byung Joon Choi, a Korean, sued Jung A Enterprises, Soi-In Corp., Pacific Saipan LLC, and Jung Ja Kim for alleged unpaid overtime, in violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act and NMI Minimum Wage and Hour Act, breach of contract, and conversion.

Choi, through lawyer Stephen C. Woodruff, asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to order the defendants to pay him $81,000 in overtime compensation, $53,941 in unpaid regular compensation, $37,800 in wrongful termination, and $40,000 in damages.

The defendants' businesses include Rio Poker, Cool Laundry, Cool Market, 3K Poker, Leo1 Poker, Leo2 Poker, K3 Poker, Pala Poker, K5 Poker in Dandan, 123 BBQ Restaurant in San Antonio, Viva Poker on Tinian, Sign Arts, Rota Poker, L7 poker, Tanapag Laundry, Tanapag Mart, Tanapag Leo Poker, and Seoul Poker.

Woodruff stated in the complaint that the defendants employed Choi as a supervisor or general manager at a monthly salary of $1,800 for a 40-hour workweek plus overtime compensation.

The lawyer said that, from Feb. 2, 2005, to March 26, 2008, Choi worked 16 hours a day, seven days a week, and on-call 24 hours daily.

Defendants, according to the lawyer, failed to pay Choi overtime compensation as required by the FLSA and MWHA.

He said the defendants also failed to maintain full and accurate records of the hours Choi worked.

From Feb. 10, 2006, to Dec. 28, 2007, plaintiff was employed by the family business enterprises with a job title of supervisor with Jong A. Enterprises.

On the same day, the complaint said, plaintiff was transferred to Pacific Saipan.

On Jan. 24, 2008, Kim executed a new contract with Choi as general manager under Pacific Saipan.

Choi invested $40,000 of his money in materials and equipment for the operation of Sign Arts.

On June 28, 2008, Woodruff said, without just cause, Kim compelled plaintiff to give up his keys to the Sign Arts Shop and ordered him to stay away from the defendants' property.

When Choi subsequently tried to recover some of his property from the Sign Arts, Kim allegedly prevented him. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Coast Guard crew rescues six from disabled fishing vessel off Kaneohe

HONOLULU—U.S. Coast Guardsmen aboard an 87-foot patrol boat rescued six fishermen from a disabled vessel approximately six miles north off Kaneohe's Mokapu Point at 6am yesterday.

A spouse of one of the fishermen called the Coast Guard at 10:46pm Wednesday night to report they were overdue from a day fishing trip on Oahu's windward side. The Coast Guard was able to talk briefly with the fishermen through a cell phone and determined a general location approximately six miles from shore.

ON THE NET
www.uscgboating.org

The fishermen reported the cell phone was running low on battery life and that they had no personal flotation devices, flares or working radio aboard their vessel. Using GPS information provided by the cell phone company, the Coast Guard determined the general search area and coordinated with the Honolulu Fire Department on a search and rescue plan.

HFD diverted its Air One helicopter to the search area and the Coast Guard launched an HH-65 Dolphin helicopter and crew from Air Station Barbers Point. The HH-65's crew spotted the vessel at 12:29am and lowered a radio.

The Coast Guard established a communications plan with the fishermen and asked them to check in periodically. The crew of the 87-foot patrol boat Ahi began making its way toward the disabled vessel's position at that time.

The Ahi was on scene at 5:49am yesterday and placed the disabled vessel under tow. The Ahi safely returned the disabled vessel and the six fishermen to the state's Heeia Kea Small Boat Harbor boat ramp in Kaneohe at 9:11am yesterday.

"We were fortunate to be able to reach them via cell phone," said Petty Officer 1st Class Matt Couling, a search and rescue coordinator at the Coast Guard's 24-hour Sand Island command center. "It's important to remind mariners to have the proper safety gear on board and to leave a plan with friends or families because that makes our job as rescuers that much easier. This case could have turned out a lot worse."

The U.S. Coast Guard invites mariners to visit the "safety" section of www.uscgboating.org for more information about the proper safety gear to have on board their recreational vessels. ***(USCG)***

MONUMENT-AL DEBATE
Coastal Resources Management Office Director John Joyner tells students at Hopwood Junior High School the reasons why he is against a proposal to establish a national marine monument in the CNMI Thursday ahead of a debate by the students next week.

STEFAN SEBASTIAN

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday greetings go out to Jenny Inais Fred, who is celebrating her birthday today, Oct. 11. Greetings come from the family and sister Emko.

CRIME OF THE WEEK

Trafficking of illegal drugs

Crime Stoppers is seeking the community's assistance for information on any person(s) responsible for trafficking illegal drugs, such as crystal methamphetamine, also known as "ice," cocaine, ecstasy, or marijuana, into or within the CNMI. Crime Stoppers needs your help in making the Commonwealth a drug-free society. Anyone having information about these crimes, please call the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272. Crime Stoppers pays cash rewards up to $1,000 for information leading to an arrest. Caller ID is not used. All calls remain anonymous. ***(NMI Crime Stoppers)***

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

McCain's dilemma

John McCain boasts that he knows the difference between tactics and strategy, so he must recognize that the final weeks of his campaign against Barack Obama are plagued with difficulties in both realms. His strategic goal—to run as the more experienced, worldly and wiser candidate—is undermined by an electorate stubbornly unwilling to regard him as more presidential than his rival. And his tactical response, to challenge Obama with increasing ferocity, is only making matters worse.

That dilemma was on display Tuesday night as McCain used the second presidential debate to attempt to resuscitate his struggling effort. He wasted no time, opening with a blockbuster proposal to have the government buy up troubled mortgages. For a candidate who once deplored much federal action in this area, that's a big turn, one that could rescue many homeowners but at great cost to taxpayers—about $300 billion, by his estimates.

McCain's attempts to regain the initiative were constrained by the evolving realities of the campaign. He needs to dent Obama's popularity without appearing mean. Thus, gone were the smirks and winces of the first debate, but his criticisms of Obama wobbled between flat attempts at humor—nailing down his rival's tax plan, McCain lamely offered, "is like trying to nail Jello to the wall"—and flashes of the condescension he displayed last time, notably his curmudgeonly dismissal of Obama as "that one."

Obama offered openings. His support for "clean coal" is oxymoronic and transparently political. His message on global warming is undermined by his support for expanded domestic oil drilling. And if the debate was sometimes frustrating—how often must McCain address us as "my friends"; how many times must we suffer Obama's praise for the moderator?—it did have clarifying moments. Here's one: McCain views healthcare as a responsibility; Obama sees it as a right. That is a genuine distinction upon which voters may hang a choice.

But in purely political terms, Obama has wider latitude, and he's using it. A month ago, Gallup had McCain's support among registered voters at 48 percent and Obama's at 43 percent. Today, Obama leads by nine percentage points and, for the first time, is edging above 50 percent. Battleground states are slipping toward the Democratic column. Sarah Palin was a source of Republican energy; now, she's an anchor.

Neither insults nor 11th-hour initiatives will change that dynamic over the next month. What McCain needs to regain his balance is to persuade voters that he has a cogent, coherent economic proposal and a command over this dominant issue. He did not deliver either Tuesday night.

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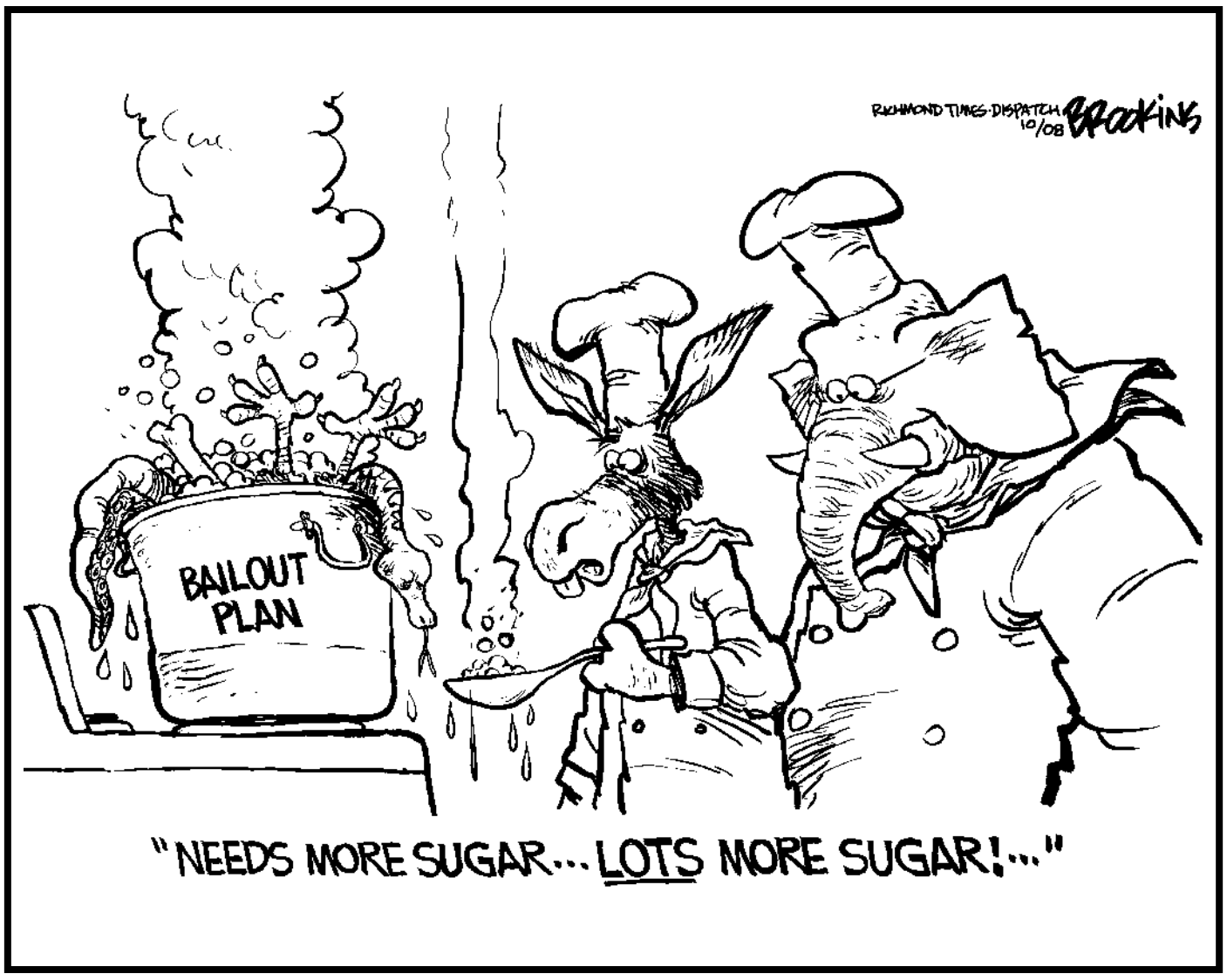

No depression: This time, Uncle Sam has got our back

By LAURENCE J. KOTLIKOFF and PERRY MEHRLING
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

Global markets have not been reassured by the coordinated interest rate cuts of several central banks or by recent congressional action, but they should be. Our bet is that financial markets will return to normal in short order and that the U.S. economy will squeak by with a moderate recession. Recapitalizing the banks and working out mortgages will take time, but the financial system will not collapse—the government won't let it.

The markets, of course, seem to be factoring in some probability of collapse. Why is this wrong?

For starters, the biggest subprime mortgage gamblers have already failed, been nationalized or been married off, shotgun-style, to banks run by grown-ups. Yes, lots of small shoes may still drop, but the Paulson "buy-up" bill, and, ultimately, the Fed's ability to print money, provides the Treasury and Federal Reserve all the tools they need. The media don't seem to have noticed, but Section 113 of the bill authorizes government capital infusions into the banking system as necessary—something the British government is now doing and the Swedish government successfully did in the recent past. That means any bank with a viable business will not be allowed to fail simply because it is temporarily undercapitalized.

Second, Uncle Sam (a.k.a. Treasury Secretary Hank Paulson and Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke) is doing precisely what's needed to avoid the mistakes of the 1930s. With credit markets drying up, he's turning on the faucet by recycling our panic dollars back into the financial market.

The government is taking in our money (in exchange for Treasury bills) and using it to make mortgages and buy up the assets we're too scared to hold. It's doing this via the Treasury, the Fed, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., the Federal Housing Administration, the Federal Home Loan Bank, Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac and other appendages. It's starting to lend directly to large and small businesses whose usual sources of credit have become unavailable.

In short, Uncle Sam is becoming our new bank. He has also become our new insurance company with his effective purchase of the world's largest insurer—AIG.

In the 1930s, nobody in the private sector could borrow, raise equity or sell insurance because everyone lost trust in everyone else. Uncle Sam stood on the sidelines and marveled at the chaos. But today Uncle Sam is saying, "Listen, if you households and firms are too scared to invest in each other or sell each other insurance, give us your money, and we'll do it for you. We'll pay you a sure return on the Treasuries and, if our investments and insurance sales do well, you'll benefit by paying lower taxes."

This may sound like socialism or state capitalism, but it's simply rearranging the financial furniture. As Americans have freaked out, Uncle Sam has stepped up. He'll continue doing so until we realize the sky is not falling. The $700 billion rescue authorizes the federal government to keep doing what it has been doing for the past year to the tune of $400 billion—buying distressed assets at bargain-basement prices and selling insurance at high premiums. If all works out, Uncle Sam will make a killing. This would be great, given our government's real problem—paying the long-term Social Security and medical costs of retiring baby boomers.

Point three is clear: This financial chaos has ruined our sleep but left our physical and human capital unscathed. We have the same productive capacity today we had a year ago. And if our capital hasn't changed, we've suffered no overall capital loss.

This means that our accounting, which has focused on financial losses, is missing lots of offsetting financial gains. The offsetting gains are accruing to current or prospective purchasers of the assets whose market values have dropped. Asset buyers, whether they are young people buying their first homes, middle-aged workers contributing to their 401(k)s or billionaires such as Warren Buffett buying financial firms, can now acquire homes and stocks (claims to the same capital inside the companies) at a roughly one-third discount from a year ago. That's great for them, and lousy for the rest of us, but not a net economic tragedy.

The economic tragedy comes if we get hypnotized by the bad news, ignore the good news, fight about things we're already doing (e.g., having Uncle Sam buy and insure troubled assets) and pull our economic heads inside our shells. We Americans have lots of moxie. What we need is a strong pep talk and absolute assurance that credit will continue to flow, that insurance policies will continue to be honored, and that Uncle Sam is willing and able to invest directly in the private economy on our behalf.

So after scaring us half to death, this would be a good time for our other uncles—Hank and Ben—to make clear that we're heading for a safe landing and that there is no way in hell they will let this economy go down the tubes.

Laurence J. Kotlikoff, a professor of economics at Boston University, is co-author of Spend 'Til the End. *Perry Mehrling is a professor of economics at Columbia University's Barnard College and author of* Fischer Black and the Revolutionary Idea of Finance.

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A question for Sarah Palin

By AMY SCHALET
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

Sarah Palin faced a variety of questions at last week's debate, but not the one I would have asked: "Should public school students be taught that contraception and condoms can prevent unintended pregnancy and disease?"

Palin has referred to her teen-age daughter's pregnancy as a normal "up and down" of family life. Sympathetic politicians and commentators, including Bill Clinton, have concurred, attributing teen-age pregnancies to "raging hormones" and saying that since the couple plans to marry, Bristol Palin's pregnancy is really an early awakening to adult responsibilities.

But left obscured by the raging-hormones explanation is the fact that teen pregnancy is far from inevitable. Like some other controversies at the heart of the culture wars, this problem—which, after receding nationally since the early 1990s, appears to be worsening again—need not exist. High teen pregnancy rates result in part from our inability to talk honestly and wisely about teen sexuality. And they are exacerbated by policies that prohibit such talk.

American teen-agers grow up in environments that inhibit them from making conscious choices about sex and using contraception effectively. Sarah Palin supports programs that contribute to that environment, favoring policies that prohibit teachers from explaining the benefits of contraception and condoms and that require teaching that sex outside of marriage is unacceptable.

Such "abstinence-until-marriage" policies are built on the myth of a past when people did not have sex until they were married and, this thinking goes, prevented many of the troubles that plague society today. But for more than half a century, the majority of Americans have been having premarital sex. In the 1950s, one in three teen-age mothers conceived out of wedlock. And many "shotgun" marriages ended in divorce.

Teen-age parents face an even taller order today; it is no longer as easy for a man without a college degree to get a well-paying job to provide for a family, and young women rightly expect to pursue their talents both inside and outside the home, a challenge to pull off without higher education.

Simply put, the circumstances and aspirations of young people have changed since the 1950s, but our society's narratives about the place of sexuality and the nature of relationships do not reflect these changes. And we pay a price for that inability to talk realistically about teen-age sexuality and love.

Just how steep, and unnecessary, that price is becomes clear when we look at countries where teen-agers do not pay it. In the Netherlands, young people become sexually active at the same age as their American and other counterparts across the developed world—around 17—but teen-age pregnancy rates are six times lower than they are here.

In 1950s Dutch society, most young people began having sex when they were in their 20s and were married or engaged. During the 1960s, unintended teen-age pregnancies rose alarmingly. Seeing this, family physicians and clinics were quick to make contraceptives easily accessible to youth. Dutch teen pregnancy and abortion rates are now among the lowest in the developed world.

National surveys show that most Dutch parents accept that young people choose to have sex in committed relationships during their later teens. Research I conducted found that a majority of Dutch parents are even willing to permit such couples to spend the night together in their homes, but only when they see that they have formed a loving relationship, feel ready for sex and understand how to use contraception responsibly. By accepting teen sexuality within these parameters, Dutch parents can stay involved, monitor relationships and urge proper contraceptive use.

This shift from a "marriage-only" to a "love-only" sexual ethic happened because parents, aided by honest and informative public conversations about sex, grappled with how to marry their aspirations—about the children they wanted to raise and the relationships they wanted to foster—to times that were changing. The result is an environment in which young people receive support from parents and other adults as they learn about relationships and wise sexual choices.

American teen-agers lack such an environment. All too often, they feel sex is a secret that can ruin their lives. Bristol Palin's pregnancy does little to dispel the fear that the risks of sex cannot be controlled. With impending parenthood a surely unintended byproduct of her youthful experiences, at age 17 hers is a life constrained in ways that few of us would want for ourselves or our loved ones.

The Palins, of course, deserve credit for their public embrace of their eldest daughter, which shows that, ideology notwithstanding, parents still love their daughters even if they have sex. If that embrace allays fears that prompt girls to keep sex a secret from their parents, then the Republican Party may have, inadvertently, facilitated the honest conversations we need to move beyond the myth-only approach to adolescent sexuality.

The writer is an assistant professor of sociology at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

Searching the world for economic answers

By ROSA BROOKS
SPECIAL TO THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

"What don't you know, and how will you learn it?"

When "Peggy from Amherst" submitted that question to Tom Brokaw, moderator of Tuesday night's presidential debate, she probably already knew she wasn't going to get a genuine answer from the candidates. And she didn't.

Barack Obama made a quick joke ("My wife, Michelle, is there, and she could give you a (long) list"), observed that it's the unexpected challenges that often consume most of a president's time, then changed the subject to the American dream. John McCain explained that "what I don't know is what all of us don't know, and that's what's going to happen ... what I don't know is what the unexpected will be." Then he too changed the subject.

So I'll answer Peggy's question.

What McCain doesn't seem to know—yet—is that he's a dead man walking. He'll learn it definitively Nov. 4, when he's going to lose the election—and the polls increasingly suggest that he'll lose big. The Republican Party as a whole also will lose big. We're in the middle of an epochal shift in U.S. politics. A global economic crisis, two wars and an ongoing nuclear and terrorist threat have left most Americans disgusted by the recklessness of free marketeers and by unilateralist, militarist approaches to foreign policy.

The era of GOP dominance of U.S. politics is over. McCain, the son and grandson of Navy admirals, wanted to be the Republican Party's "steady hand at the tiller." Now he's going down with the ship.

Let's get to Obama, who's almost certain to be our president.

What Obama doesn't know is how to keep the global economic crisis from sending all the rest of us to the bottom of the sea, right along with McCain and the GOP.

Obama won't say that, of course—no sane politician would. On the contrary, Obama, like McCain, bent over backward during Tuesday's debate to reassure voters that all of our problems can be fixed. Neither he nor McCain made reference to the Dow's plunge of 508 points Tuesday, nor to the fact that the index has lost a full third of its value in a year. And when asked by Brokaw if the economy will get "much worse before it gets better," Obama's response was quick: "No. I'm confident about the American economy."

Really? I'm not.

I don't usually hope that politicians are being disingenuous. But if Obama truly thinks things won't get worse, then what he doesn't know is scary.

The U.S. economy is now in roughly the situation the Titanic was in when its lookouts spotted that fatal iceberg looming ahead, and most Americans have started to figure this out. And although finger-pointing is always fun, most of us are turning to more urgent questions—such as whether there will be enough lifeboats to go around and whether there's any real prospect of rescue and recovery.

Obama must know this. But presumably his debate prep team told him that with election day so close, it would be stupid to acknowledge a vast, spreading problem if he can't offer voters an equally comprehensive and compelling solution. And I'm pretty sure Obama doesn't yet know how to do that.

Don't blame him for not yet knowing how to do that, though. Right now, no one really knows how to do that. Not Obama, not McCain, not Ben Bernanke or Paul Krugman or Larry Summers or Hank Paulson. We're all out of our depth.

That's what makes our situation so frightening. A problem that began in the U.S. housing market rippled around the globe. Ripples became waves, waves became tsunamis and now global shores are strewn with wrecked financial institutions. Entire national economies are starting to sink. And in today's globalized economy, we all sink or swim together.

During World War II—even as the fighting raged in devastated Europe—the Allied powers met at Bretton Woods to establish international institutions designed to stabilize the international financial system. On Wednesday, the International Monetary Fund—a cornerstone of the Bretton Woods system—warned that the world economy faces "the most dangerous financial shock in mature markets since the 1930s." But even as the IMF called for "strong and coordinated actions," much of the post-World War II financial system appeared to be unraveling.

Can we save it? Or is it time for some radically new approaches, both domestically and internationally?

Obama doesn't know yet. But whatever Obama says publicly, I hope he's got his most creative economists working to figure this out. He—and the rest of us—better hope we can learn fast.

Brooks is a professor at the Georgetown University Law Center. E-mail her at rbrooks@latimescolumnists.com.

Bailout is not enough

By PETER MORICI
SPECIAL TO THE BALTIMORE SUN

It's official! The bank bailout has not worked.

Global stock prices are in a panic rush to the bottom.

The bailout cannot fulfill its primary mission to restore investor confidence, because it does only half the job. It will provide banks with much-needed liquidity, but it does not address the compensation and management practices on Wall Street that drove irresponsible decisions and gave rise to the crisis. It does not address the void of sound leadership at the top of major financial institutions such as Citigroup and Merrill Lynch.

Since 2000, corporate profits have jumped sharply, but stock prices were down even before the mess of recent weeks took them to new depths. The fact is most of the gains have gone to private equity funds, hedge funds, investment bankers, executives who get buyouts and the financial engineers who run the deals. They put together companies, take them apart, get paid up front, extract billions in shareholder value, and then leave shareholders with depressed stock prices and vague promises about future synergies.

Worse, the wizards of Wall Street leave companies too poor to take care of their workers decently. Like George C. Scott's character in the classic "Flim-Flam Man," the con artist is in the next county before the ruse becomes visible, and ordinary Americans are left with vanished dreams in their retirement accounts and prospects of a mean old age.

Sen. Barack Obama's tax-and-redistribute policies will not resurrect jobs, wages or the price of stocks in American retirement accounts. Ordinary Americans who have to earn their livings outside the cosseted confines of Wall Street will be not much better off two years from now. In fact, Obama's policies may make economic conditions worse.

However, middle-class distress gives populist promises strong appeal. If Obama wants to make Americans better off, he would serve them better by straightening out the banks and taking substantive action on the trade deficit with China. Also, he would be less politically correct on energy and the environment. His platform is full of platitudes and generalizations but not enough substance. Sen. John McCain does not offer much more, and in some cases he promises less.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi stated when the bailout bill passed that the party is over on Wall Street—referring to compensation reforms in the new law. Those reforms are simply too weak to have meaningful effects.

Come January, the Democrats will likely control both the White House and Congress. Pelosi and other Democrats need to recognize that the problem is in the way the banks are run and to get serious about repairing the lending system.

This includes tightening regulations on mortgage brokers and real estate appraisers to ensure the accuracy and honesty that have been sorely lacking regarding essential facts such as income, credit histories and home values. Also, the reconfigured Wall Street banks will need to return to less complicated, more easily understood mortgage-based instruments.

Until these reforms happen, look for things to get worse before they get better.

Morici is a professor at the University of Maryland School of Business and former chief economist at the U.S. International Trade Commission.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds around 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼75°	▲86° ▼75°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°

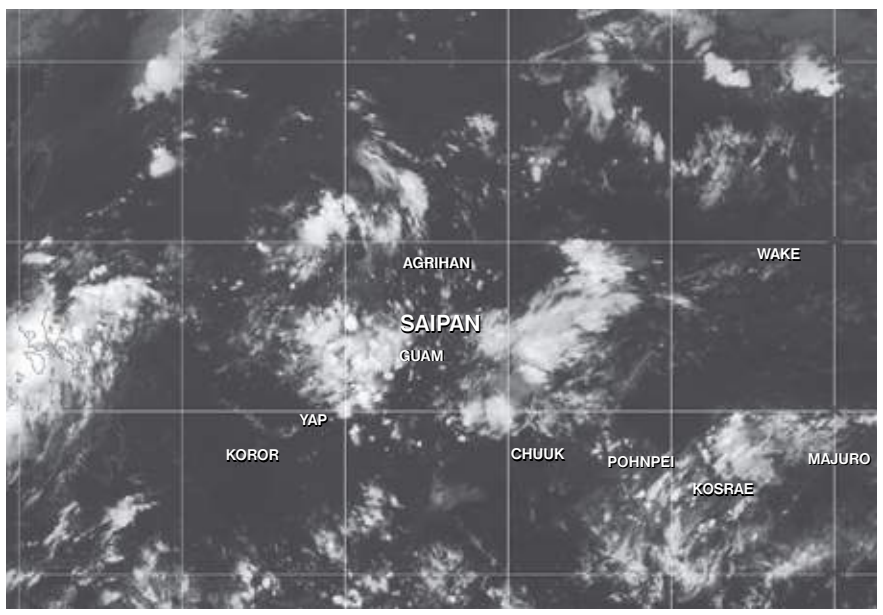
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	▲85	▼76
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼77
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲85	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼78
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼72
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼76
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼73

Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲60	▼51
Beijing	Sunny	▲62	▼45
Hong Kong	Cloudy	▲84	▼78
Honolulu	Showers	▲83	▼74
London	Cloudy	▲70	▼54
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲74	▼52
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼71
Melbourne	Partly Sunny	▲77	▼63
Miami	Cloudy	▲89	▼77
New York	Mostly Sunnyy	▲67	▼57
Osaka	Cloudy	▲67	▼50
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲69	▼56
Pusan	Sunny	▲71	▼54
Rome	Sunny	▲74	▼55
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲61	▼38
San Francisco	Sunny	▲80	▼50
Seoul	Sunny	▲65	▼45
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲76	▼65
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲72	▼57

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2008
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Trade-wind convergence is combining with upper-level divergence to produce scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms west of Guam between 10N and 16N from 137E to 144E and northwest of the Northern Marianas between 20N and 25N from 137E to 145E. An upper-level low is centered northwest of Wake Island near 25N161E. An upper-level trough extends from the low to 20N150E to 10N145E. Divergence along this trough-axis is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms east of the Marianas within 150 miles of a line from 10N149E to 20N157E. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring east of Majuro between 5N and 10N east of 172E. Also, scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found near Kosrae within 150 miles of a line from 3N159E to 10N167E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

4:07AM Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
10:53AM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
5:37PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
11:46PM Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:08AM	5:59 PM
Sunday	6:08AM	5:59 PM
Monday	6:08AM	5:58 PM
Tuesday	6:08AM	5:57 PM
Wednesday	6:09AM	5:57 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	3:22PM	2:33AM
Sunday	4:00PM	3:25AM
Monday	4:39PM	4:18AM
Tuesday	5:20PM	5:12AM
Wednesday	6:04PM	6:10AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 1, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 099	5:00am	7:30am	Daily
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily
NW 075	4:55pm	7:25pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:20pm	6:55pm	Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,5

Saipan-Shanghai

FM 844	3:15am	5:55am	2,6

Rota-Guam

CO 9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1,7

Guam-Manila

CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3,5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	3:25am	4:00am	5,6

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9598	2:30am	4:00am	5,6 via Rota
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:15am	2:50pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily
NW 100	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	4,7

Shanghai-Saipan

FM 843	7:50pm	2:15am+1	1,5

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	2:30am	3:00am	5,6

Manila-Guam

CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3,5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Schedule of Religious Services

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am
Monday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm
Saturday: 6am and 6pm

Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish
Wednesday Mass: 6pm
First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm
Saturday Mass: 6pm
Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am

Saint Jude Parish
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm

San Antonio Parish
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Tuesday and Friday: 6pm

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6pm

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am and 10am
Monday-Wednesday: 7pm
Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Sunday: 6am and 7:30am
Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 9am
Wednesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10:30am

San Vicente Parish
Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6pm

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 7:30am
Tuesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10am-Baptism

Santa Soledad
Sunday: 7:30am

PROTESTANT

Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm
Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Worship/Study Opportunities
Adult Sunday School: 9am
Youth Sunday School: 9am
English Worship Service Sunday: 10am
Sunday Service: 5:30pm
Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm
Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm
Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm;
Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm
Mid-week Service: 7:30pm
Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm
Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm
Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,
Call 235-0545 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Worship Service: 9am
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am
Sunday: 7am
Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm
Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (English)
Saturday: 5:30am (Tagalog); 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church Koblerville
Sunday Services
9:00 AM
Place of the church-next to Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Chalan Kanoa Dr. • Tel: 322-6158
Pastor JJ Matsumoto

Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
English Service: 9-11am, Sunday
Tagalog Service: 6-8pm, Sunday

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 8:20am
Sunday Adult: 10am
Sunday Adult: 11:30am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided)
Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620

Saipan Bible Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30-10am
Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 6pm
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church
(Formerly Saipan Baptist Church)
Afetna St., San Antonio
Sunday
9am Sunday school
10am Regular worship
6pm worship
Wednesday
7pm worship
Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please call Pastor David M. Mclure at 234-1939/235-7779.

Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi
Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries
Sunday 5:30am-6:30am
Morning prayer
7am-9am English service
7am-9am Sunday school
10am-12noon English service, Koblerville
Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting
Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service
Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Flashback
A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

October 11, 1999

CUC may alter 80-MW project
The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation hinted at changing the original plan on the Saipan power project, further fueling speculation that it has decided to downsize the 80-megawatt plant in light of the present situation on the island.

CUC Chair Rosario M. Elameto assured, however, the utility board will determine its outcome on Wednesday when independent experts present their final report to the public after nine months of reviewing proposals handed in by 13 power firms.

Benavente: Give FTZ a chance
House Speaker Diego T. Benavente urged the Senate to set aside differences on the proposed free trade zones on the island and approve the plan to begin the process of attracting investments into the Northern Marianas.

"We've got to give it a shot, give it a chance because we've got nothing now to offer to investors," he said in an interview.

Kidney transplant as an option
It's been almost three years now since 48-year-old Julian Concepcion was wheeled into the operating room of St. Vincent Hospital in Los Angeles, California to have a kidney transplant.

Concepcion, who underwent four delicate operations in three months which included his heart and brain, remembers his trip to different hospitals for treatment and being attended to by about 25 doctors for his various sickness.

October 11, 2000

U.S. veterans honor their compatriots
Dozens of U.S. veterans visiting Saipan aboard a luxury liner stopped by yesterday at the American Memorial Park to pay homage and remember their compatriots who died here during World War II.

CNMI officials and some veterans residing on the island led the welcoming ceremony held at the Court of Honor and Flag circle, giving these visitors not only recognition but also a taste of the islands' hospitality.

PSS unveils construction plans of two high schools
The Public School System bared yesterday plans to fast-track two major Capital Improvement Projects to the House Committee on Education, vouching for a more direct role in the construction of the proposed Koblerville Junior High and Kagman High schools.

Board of Education CIP Committee Chair Anthony Pellegrino told house leaders the school system is ready to take 75 percent direct responsibility of the undertaking compared to other infrastructure projects PSS has completed in the past.

Rota runway construction kicks off next year
Construction of the Rota International Airport runway is expected to kick off in January 2001, after the Commonwealth Ports Authority completed looking at the submitted proposals for the island's air transport facility rehabilitation project.

Offering to undertake the project at a cost of $2.79 million, Nippon Hodo Construction Limited emerged as the apparent low bidder. Its bid includes remarking, regrooving and rehabilitation works at the island's airport runway.

October 11, 2001

CNMI under "domestic terror' attacks
The CNMI is experiencing domestic terrorism, according to Police Commissioner Charles Ingram Jr., citing the rising incidence of bomb threats on Saipan.

The Department of Public Safety has submitted to the Legislature a proposed measure that seeks to criminalize such prank calls.

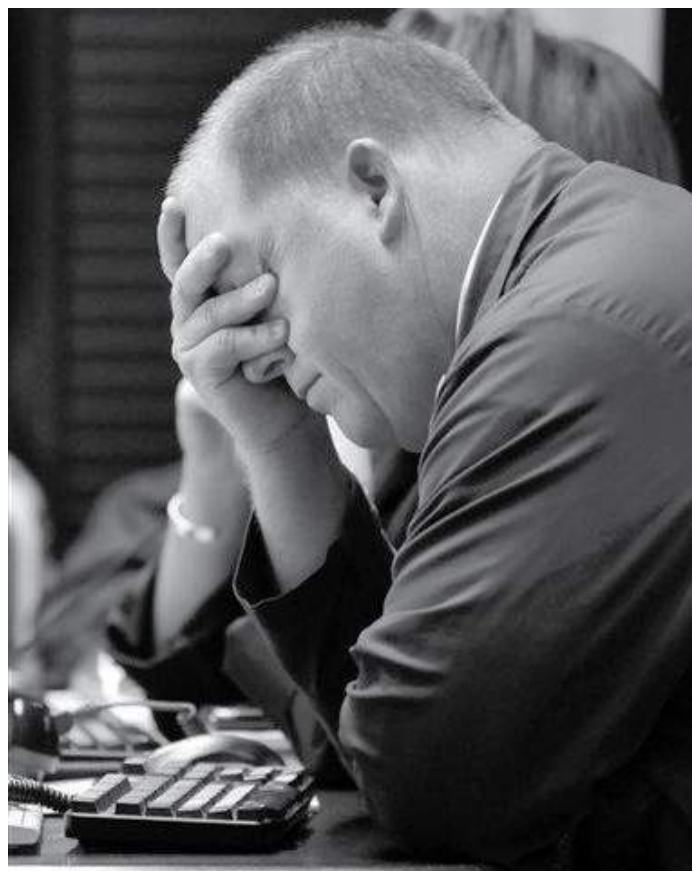
US Senate panel pledges higher Compact-Impact funding for NMI
The CNMI government can soon expect to receive fresh federal funds after the US Senate Interior Appropriations Committee agreed to increase the Compact-Impact funds of the Commonwealth by a million dollars.

House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial disclosed that committee chairman Sen. Conrad Burns has agreed to infuse fresh funds into the Compact Impact allotment of the CNMI, raising the annual $1 million being given to the CNMI to $2 million.

Fitial said the Senate committee agreed to this fresh infusion of funds after he met with Burns last year to ask for additional funding for the Compact Impact allotment.

Business

Swagger turns to shudder a year after market high



AP

Trader Kevin McCarthy holds his head as he works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, Thursday Oct. 9, 2008.

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Just a year ago, investors were swaggering as the stock market surged to an all-time high. Now, almost everyone on Wall Street and Main Street seems to be shuddering amid a frightening reversal of fortune that has erased $8.3 trillion in shareholder wealth in the past 366 days.

"We aren't dealing with a fundamental economic issue any longer," said James Paulsen, chief investment strategist for Wells Capital Management. "We are dealing with fear. And that doesn't respond to economic medicine."

That hasn't stopped the U.S. government from trying to find a remedy.

In a series of moves aimed at avoiding the mistakes that culminated in the Great Depression nearly 80 years ago, the government already has committed to spend more than $1 trillion to prop up ailing banks and other lenders during the past month of turmoil.

But none of it seems to be working, which only seems to be scaring people even more, especially after the nation's leaders spent nearly two weeks painting a gloomy picture of the economic outlook to persuade Congress to approve a $700 billion bailout of the banks.

"I think right now there are just some very powerful negative images that are alive in many people's minds—images of the Depression, images of people selling apples," said George Loewenstein, a behavioral economist at Carnegie Mellon University. "The images of the downside are just so salient in people's minds, and nobody has presented an upside image yet."

Some investors, like software engineer Sandeep Bhanote, are trying their best not to be spooked.

"Fear is the most dangerous emotion. It can really do the market a lot of harm when maybe it is not necessary to be afraid," Bhanote said Thursday at a coffee shop near the New York Stock Exchange.

The quarterly 401(k) statements that are starting to arrive in the mail will only serve as another grim reminder of the financial carnage. And it has gotten worse since the quarter ended in September, with the Dow Jones industrial average tumbling every day so far this month.

In this week alone, the Dow Jones has plummeted by 17 percent, bringing the total decline to 39 percent since the stock market's most famous bellwether peaked at 14,164.53 on Oct. 9 a year ago.

The downturn translates into a paper loss of $8.3 trillion, based on figures measured by the Dow Jones Wilshire 5000 Composite Index, which tracks 5,000 U.S.-based companies' stocks and represents almost all stocks traded in America.

There are some logical reasons why stocks aren't worth as much as they were a year ago.

For starters, the U.S. economy appears to be in a recession for the first time since 2001. To make matters worse, this contraction looks like it could be particularly painful, with home prices in their steepest slide since the Great Depression and banks in their shakiest condition since the savings-and-loan crisis of the 1980s and early 1990s wiped out thousands of federally insured institutions.

Nation

McCain: Obama link to ex-radical is honesty issue

AP

Republican presidential candidate, Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz.,shakes hands during a rally in Waukesha, Wisc., Thursday, Oct. 9, 2008.

WAUKESHA, Wis. (AP)—Republican presidential candidate John McCain said Thursday that questions about Democratic rival Barack Obama's association with a former war protester linked to Vietnam-era bombings are part of a broader issue of honesty.

In his strongest personal criticism since his faltering campaign began casting Obama as an unknown and unacceptable candidate, McCain told supporters that Obama had not been truthful in describing his relationship with former radical William Ayers. The Arizona senator also said Obama himself has "a clear radical, far-left pro-abortion record."

McCain and the Republican National Committee also launched new Web and TV ads about Obama and Ayers.

Loud cheers from 4,000 people gathered at a sports complex near Milwaukee greeted McCain's attacks over Ayers, who helped found the Weather Underground, a Vietnam protest group that bombed government buildings 40 years ago. Obama has noted that he was a child at the time and first met Ayers and his wife, ex-radical Bernadine Dohrn, a quarter-century later.

"Look, we don't care about an old, washed-up terrorist and his wife," McCain said. "That's not the point here."

"He's a terrorist!" a man in the audience screamed without making clear to whom he was referring.

"We need to know the full extent of the relationship," McCain replied. Later, McCain told ABC News: "It's a factor about Sen. Obama's candor and truthfulness with the American people."

Obama has denounced Ayers and his violent actions and views. He dismisses McCain's criticism as an effort to "score cheap political points."

Palin pre-empts state report, clears self in investigation

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—Trying to head off a potentially embarrassing state ethics report on GOP vice presidential nominee Sarah Palin, campaign officials released their own report Thursday that clears her of any wrongdoing.

Sen. John McCain's running mate is the subject of a legislative investigation into whether she abused her power as governor by firing her public safety commissioner. The commissioner, Walter Monegan, says he was dismissed in July for resisting pressure from Palin's husband, Todd Palin, and numerous top aides to fire state trooper Mike Wooten, Palin's former brother-in-law.

Lawmakers are expected to release their own findings Friday. Campaign officials have yet to see that report—the result of an investigation that began before she was tapped as McCain's running mate—but said the investigation has falsely portrayed a legitimate policy dispute between a governor and her commissioner as something inappropriate.

"The following document will prove Walt Monegan's dismissal was a result of his insubordination and budgetary clashes with Governor Palin and her administration," campaign officials wrote. "Trooper Wooten is a separate issue."

Monegan said Thursday that he doesn't know what to expect from the legislative panel's own report.

"I just hope that the truth is figured out," Monegan told The Associated Press on Thursday. "That the governor did want me to fire him, and I chose to not. You just can't walk up to someone and say, 'I fire you.' He didn't do anything under my watch to result in termination."

Palin's critics say that shows she used her office to settle family affairs.

"When you're the governor, you leave your household hat at home and you become governor," said state Senate President Lyda Green, a Republican who has frequently clashed with Palin.

Virginia shark's pup a 'virgin birth'

RICHMOND, Va. (AP)—Scientists have confirmed the second case of a "virgin birth" in a shark.

In a study reported Friday in the Journal of Fish Biology, scientists said DNA testing proved that a pup carried by a female Atlantic blacktip shark in the Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center contained no genetic material from a male.

The first documented case of asexual reproduction, or parthenogenesis, among sharks involved a pup born to a hammerhead at an Omaha, Neb., zoo.

"This first case was no fluke," Demian Chapman, a shark scientist and lead author of the second study, said in a statement. "It is quite possible that this is something female sharks of many species can do on occasion."

AP

A blacktip shark, is shown in this March 2008 file photo in the Indian Ocean off Aliwal Shoal, South Africa.

The aquarium sharks that reproduced without mates each carried only one pup, while some shark species can produce litters numbering in the dozen or more. The scientists cautioned that the rare asexual births should not be viewed as a possible solution to declining global shark populations.

Elections officials deny illegally purging voters

NEW YORK (AP)—A newspaper report Thursday said tens of thousands of eligible voters have been removed from rolls or blocked from registering in at least six swing states. Election officials lined up to defend their registration procedures and said they had done nothing wrong.

The New York Times based its findings on reviews of state records and Social Security data, and said it had identified apparent problems in Colorado, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Nevada and North Carolina.

Two states had purged voters, the Times said. Ohio and three other states were cited only for sending several requests for voter registration verifications to the Social Security Administration.

The Times said voters appear to have been purged by mistake and not because of any intentional violations by election officials or coordinated efforts by any party. It says that some states are improperly using Social Security data to verify new voters' registration applications, and that others might have broken rules that govern removing voters from the rolls within 90 days of a federal election.

ACROSS THE NATION

States cut spending, put projects on hold

With the economy in a slide and the credit markets seized up, states are slashing budgets, eliminating jobs, putting major construction projects on hold and nervously waiting to see whether their shriveled pension funds recover. They are also weighing lawsuits against Wall Street firms. And at least one state—California—may ask Washington to come to the rescue. Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger warned he may have to beg the federal government for a short-term loan to cover operating costs for schools, nursing homes and police if the nation's most populous state is unable to borrow a short-term $7 billion on the credit market. Dozens of states are expecting big drop-offs in revenue and dispiriting pension-fund losses, and are making another round of emergency spending cuts on top of deep cutbacks earlier in the year, when the economy began softening and the mortgage crisis started to unfold. "I think everybody agrees: The iceberg is in sight," said Murray Levy, a Maryland state lawmaker. New York, the capital of the nation's financial industry, is grappling with the highest unemployment rate since the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks and a $1.2 billion deficit that could balloon to $2 billion by the end of the fiscal year March 31. States such as Massachusetts, Indiana, Washington, Pennsylvania and Colorado are either putting a freeze on hiring or hoping to reduce their payroll through attrition.

Police: Murder-suicide at heart of Ky. house fire

INDEPENDENCE, Ky. (AP)—A man found dead this week after a gasoline-fueled blaze at his Kentucky house shot and killed his wife and daughter before turning the gun on himself, police said Thursday. Police and firefighters also came under fire when they arrived Tuesday night at the burning home where they found the three bodies inside and a toddler wandering outside, unharmed. In a release Thursday, police said autopsies and other evidence show 43-year-old Seaward Padilla shot 45-year-old Lori Padilla and 22-year-old Jessica Padilla on Tuesday night. All three died from gunshot wounds; Jessica's 2-year-old daughter, Jaycee, was unharmed. Police also said that gasoline was used to ignite the fire and that rounds fired from the house hit a fire truck and a house across the street. No responders were injured.

Iowa teen left at Neb. hospital back with family

OMAHA, Neb. (AP)—An Iowa teenager who was abandoned at an Omaha hospital under Nebraska's safe-haven law is back home after her grandparents dropped her off to teach her a lesson but soon changed their minds, officials said Thursday. The 14-year-old girl from across the Missouri River in Council Bluffs, Iowa, was left at Creighton University Medical Center on Tuesday. She was the 17th child left under a state law that took effect in July but was the first from out of state. Her abandonment set off concerns that Nebraska's broadly written law could make the state a dumping ground for unwanted children. The law absolves anyone of abandonment charges for leaving a child of any age at a state-licensed hospital. It doesn't, however, overlook other possible charges, including if a child had been neglected or abused.

Asia

AP

This Aug. 13, 2002 file photo is a satellite image provided by Space Imaging Asia of the Yongbyon Nuclear Center, located north of Pyongyang, North Korea.

N. Korea preparing to restart atomic facility

VIENNA, Austria (AP)—North Korea moved closer Thursday to relaunching its nuclear arms program, announcing that it wants to reactivate the facility that produced its atomic bomb and banning U.N. inspectors from the site.

The U.S. said the moves did not mean the death of international efforts to persuade the North to recommit to an agreement that offers it diplomatic and economic concessions in exchange for nuclear disarmament.

■ ■ ■

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Bush administration is nearing a decision to remove North Korea from a terrorism blacklist and may do so as early as Friday in a bid to salvage faltering nuclear disarmament talks, The Associated Press has learned.

U.S. officials said Thursday that no final decision had been made but diplomats briefed on the matter told the AP that they believe an announcement that North Korea will be tentatively taken off the State Department's list of state sponsors of terrorism is imminent.

The delisting depends on North Korea agreeing to a plan to verify an account of its nuclear activity that it submitted over the summer, the diplomats said. North Korea would be put back on the list if it doesn't comply with the plan and abandon nuclear arms, they said.

The diplomats spoke on condition of anonymity ahead of an expected announcement, which would follow meetings last week in Pyongyang between North Korean officials and U.S. envoy Christopher Hill as well as days of intense debate in Washington.

■ ■ ■

Despite the gloomy implications of North Korea's moves, they could be a negotiating ploy: The year needed to start its reprocessing plant could be used to wrest more concessions from the regime's interlocutors.

John Bolton, who has served as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations and U.S. undersecretary of state in charge of the North Korean nuclear dossier, suggested the North's tactics were working.

Suspected US missile strike reported in Pakistan

DERA ISMAIL KHAN, Pakistan (AP)—A suspected U.S. missile strike targeted two areas in a Pakistani tribal region near the Afghanistan border Thursday, killing at least nine people, Pakistani intelligence officials said.

Also on Thursday, bombings targeting police killed 10 people and wounded 14 in Pakistan's volatile northwest and the capital—reminders of the challenge facing the country as its lawmakers pursue a national anti-terror consensus.

The alleged missile strikes appeared to be part of a surge in U.S. cross border assaults from Afghanistan on alleged militant targets in Pakistan, which have strained ties between the two anti-terror allies.

One missile strike occurred at a house in Tappi village in North Waziristan tribal region. Some of those killed were believed to be foreigners, said two local Pakistani intelligence officials, citing reports from informants and agents.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Scandal forces reform in China dairy industry

HOHHOT, China (AP)—Peering into five pails of foaming milk, Wang Guifeng quickly jotted down the farmer's name before signaling the batch was OK. Every day he rejects milk from two or three farms whose cows don't meet hygiene standards or show signs of disease. The inspections are part of a raft of new safety measures and increased supervision over the Chinese dairy industry in the wake of the country's tainted milk crisis. "They (government regulators) have tightened quality control and the farmers understand that. The farmers know they have to feed their cows well and not give them antibiotics or other things," said the 31-year-old inspector. "Nowadays we're a lot stricter." Milk laced with the industrial chemical melamine has been blamed for the deaths of four babies and for sickening 54,000 others with kidney stones and other illnesses. Some 10,700 children across the country remain hospitalized, according to the Health Ministry.

Aide says Dalai Lama's surgery ends successfully

NEW DELHI (AP)—The Dalai Lama's spokesman says surgery on the Tibetan spiritual leader to remove a gallstone has ended successfully. Spokesman Chhime R. Chhoekyapa says the surgery was a "simple routine procedure." The Dalai Lama was hospitalized in New Delhi on Thursday, days after a medical checkup cleared him to resume foreign travel. In August, the 73-year-old Dalai Lama was admitted to a Mumbai hospital and underwent tests for abdominal discomfort. Doctors advised him to cancel a planned trip to Europe and rest, saying he was suffering from exhaustion. The Dalai Lama normally spends several months a year traveling the world to teach Buddhism and highlight the Tibetans' struggle for greater freedom in China.

World

Shiite politician assassinated in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (AP)—A roadside bomb killed a prominent member of Muqtada al-Sadr's political movement Thursday, raising fears of new internal Shiite bloodshed ahead of regional elections expected in January.

The victims' allies blamed U.S. and Iraqi forces for the blast. Suspicion also fell on Shiite splinter groups—some with suspected links to Iran, which has sheltered al-Sadr for nearly 18 months.

Saleh al-Auqaeili, considered a moderate within al-Sadr's movement, was traveling in a convoy with other Shiite lawmakers when the bombing occurred about 200 yards from an Iraqi army checkpoint in mostly Shiite eastern Baghdad, a colleague said.

Al-Auqaeili died at a hospital, Sadrist spokesman Ahmed al-Massoudi said. One commuter on a motorcycle was also killed in the blast, police said.

Al-Sadr's followers have long opposed the U.S. military presence in Iraq, and some of them were quick to blame the Americans and their Iraqi allies, citing the movement's opposition to a U.S.-Iraqi security agreement that has been under negotiation for months.

"The occupation forces sent us a message by staging this attack because of our stance against the agreement," said al-Massoudi, the Sadrist spokesman.

Later, however, the Sadrist political department called the killing a "terrorist act of criminal gangs," a phrase often used to describe renegade Shiite militants that the U.S. believes are trained and armed by Iran. Tehran denies links to Iraqi Shiite militants.

Maj. Mark Cheadle, a spokesman for the U.S. military's Baghdad command, said the attack appeared to have been carried out by "unaligned" Shiite groups.

The two top American officials in Iraq condemned the "heinous crime" as "an attack against Iraq's democratic institutions."

"Significant progress has been made in the effort to bring peace and stability to Iraq. We are confident the Iraqi people will stand together to ensure terrorists will not succeed," Ambassador Ryan Crocker and Gen. Ray Odierno, commander of U.S. forces here, said in a joint statement.

Police detained 14 people for questioning, including 12 members of a government-run security force that protects a power station near the blast site.

The attack reflects tension within the Shiite community following the splintering of al-Sadr's Mahdi Army militia, which fought U.S. and Iraqi troops for weeks in Baghdad's Sadr City district until a cease-fire last May.

Shiite politicians negotiated the truce that enabled the Iraqi army to take control of the sprawling Sadr City slum, which had been al-Sadr's stronghold in the capital for years.

But some militia fighters were angered at what they considered a "sell-out" by Shiite politicians and refused to heed al-Sadr's orders transforming the Mahdi militia into an unarmed social movement.

U.S. and Iraqi officials also fear a rise in violence ahead of provincial elections due by Jan. 31.

UN food program finds hunger in rural Zimbabwe

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP)—Some rural Zimbabweans facing one of the hungriest years they could remember have been forced to live on a meal a day and in some cases only on wild fruits, the U.N. food aid agency said Thursday.

The World Food Program appealed for donations to help fight hunger in Zimbabwe, straining as an economic collapse, years of food scarcity, AIDS and poor weather have combined to put it in a category all its own in a region where most nations are poor.

"Zimbabwe is the only one that is facing a national crisis," agency spokesman Richard Lee said.

The economic collapse, with inflation of at least 231 million percent a year, has put seeds, fertilizer and farming equipment out of the reach of many Zimbabweans. AIDS has devastated the farming work force. Weather has been a factor, with either too much rain in some areas and too little in others.

Aid agencies had been blocked for months from doing their work by President Robert Mugabe's government. The ban was lifted in August, but it took weeks for agencies to start work again. In one of the first distributions since the ban was lifted, aid workers over the weekend handed out dried corn, vegetable oil and other aid.

In a video Lee shot of the aid distribution, villagers were shown painstakingly picking kernels off the ground after a handful of grain spilled. They were shown shaking off the dust and placing the food carefully in bags before hauling it home on their backs, in wheelbarrows, or on burros.

Lee said in an interview after returning to neighboring South Africa that people told him they were experiencing one of the hungriest years they could remember.

"In previous years, we used to harvest a few bags of grain," Sabath Musiiwa, a 54-year-old caring for her tuberculosis-afflicted husband and four children, said in Lee's video. "But this year there is nothing."

Lee said the World Food Program found Zimbabweans getting by on one meal a day, of corn meal porridge and a few vegetables for the lucky, but only wild fruits for others.

WORLD BRIEFS

NATO to send ships as Somali pirates ease demands

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP)—NATO joined a growing international force to protect vessels off Somalia's perilous coast Thursday, sending military ships to the treacherous waters where pirates are negotiating the release of an arms-laden tanker. The pirates softened their ransom demands for the Ukrainian ship hijacked two weeks ago in a brazen high-seas attack. Pirates have seized more than two dozen ships off Somalia's coast this year but the MV Faina has drawn the most international concern because of its dangerous cargo - 33 tanks and other heavy weapons. "We are open for give-and-take negotiations," pirate spokesman Sugule Ali told The Associated Press via satellite telephone, as a helicopter could be heard buzzing overhead. Six U.S. warships have surrounded the boat, and a Russian frigate is expected within days. Ali had vowed in earlier interviews never to reduce the ransom fromUS$20 million (euro14.57 million).

2 missing Americans detained in Syria

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP)—Two American journalists whose disappearance prompted a U.S. Embassy alert and a wide search turned up in Syrian custody Thursday after being detained while trying to sneak into the country with smugglers, Syrian officials said. Holli Chmela, 27, and Taylor Luck, 23, were released later in the day in good condition, said the U.S. State Department. "They are at our embassy in Damascus, they are in good shape and they are getting in touch with their families," said deputy State Department spokesman Robert Wood. The U.S. Embassy in Beirut launched a search Wednesday with Lebanese authorities after the two failed to return to Amman, Jordan, last weekend from a vacation in Lebanon. They worked for an English-language newspaper, the Jordan Times. The two had last been heard from on Oct. 1, when they checked out of a Beirut hotel, reportedly headed to the northern port city of Tripoli, site of sectarian clashes and attacks by Islamic militants in recent months.

Maharlika

PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS

Saturday, October 11, 2008

Group sees RP growth at 4.3 percent

By LAWRENCE CASIRAYA
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—Economic growth in the Philippines is expected to fall to 4.3 percent this year and 4.2 percent in 2009 amid a global credit crisis, complicating efforts to arrest the country's slide into deeper poverty, The Economist Group said Thursday.

Economic growth spiked to 7.2 percent last year, the highest in 30 years, building up from a five-year period.

"A decidedly weak global outlook, especially in the Philippines' two key export markets of the US and Japan, is affecting the country's trade," the publishing outfit's Southeast Asia expert Justin Wood said.

"Double-digit inflation is eating into consumer spending where wages are failing to keep pace with rising living costs," he told a news conference.

The gross domestic product (GDP) growth figures were broadly in line with the government's revised forecast of between 4.4 and 4.9-percent growth for 2008 and 4.1 to 5.1 percent expansion next year.

Despite a gathering global slowdown, however, Wood said remittance flows equivalent to 10 percent of GDP by the country's large overseas work force, "will ensure that private consumption continues to be the key factor driving the economy."

He estimated private consumption accounted for a full 70 percent of the economy, which he said has undergone a sea change from the Asian financial crisis in 1997 when growth was mainly driven by exports.

Nevertheless, Wood said he feared slower economic expansion would worsen what he said was a long-term slide in the past 40 years "from relative wealth to relative poverty."

"The Philippines has seriously under-performed relative to the region," he said, with per capita GDP growth of 1.0 percent trailing its neighbors' 4.0-6.0 percent.

In the early 1980s, for example, Wood noted that the Philippines had one of the highest per capita GDP growth but in 2007, the country lagged behind Thailand, China, Indonesia and was "in danger" of being overtaken by India.

The Philippines was also in the bottom rung in terms of foreign direct investments behind Malaysia, Vietnam, Thailand and Indonesia, according to EIU data.

Moreover, the country ranked lower than neighboring countries in the corruption perception index—only a notch higher than Cambodia. Out of 180 countries, the Philippines was ranked 140th in terms of ease of doing business—behind Rwanda and just ahead of Mozambique, Wood noted.

Communist giant may yet rescue capitalism

SYDNEY—A cartoon on the front page of Australia's national newspaper on Thursday neatly illustrates an irony admitted even by two of America's staunch allies, Australia and the Philippines—that communist China could save capitalism.

The cartoon shows a Chinese man in a Superman outfit telling exactly that to a bankrupt, cigar-smoking Wall Street tycoon covering his nakedness in a barrel.

"Oh, you're just loving this, aren't you," the fallen high-flyer replies in the cartoon in The Australian.

Amid turmoil in the world financial sector, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) predicted China's economy would grow at more than 9.0 percent next year while much of the West faced recession.

That's good news for Australia and also for the Philippines.

"China is now a major influence in the world economy and it's significant that the IMF doesn't downgrade its growth prospects," Finance Minister Lindsay Tanner said.

"So we are well positioned to continue to sell an awful lot of exports to China and we believe that that's one of the important factors that's protecting Australia, to some extent, from the influences of the US financial crisis," Tanner said.

The Australian officials' comments found echo in the Philippines.

RP in good shape

Speaking in Manila, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo on Thursday said the Philippines had found new export partners mainly for its agricultural produce, helping cushion the impact of the US financial crisis on the Philippine economy.

Ms Arroyo said the leading destination of Philippine exports was now China. Also atop the list is Japan, she said.

"The US is no longer our top export market," Ms Arroyo said in a speech at the "Agri-Link, Food-Link, and Aqua-Link" exhibition at the World Trade Center in Pasay City.

Ms Arroyo said any slowdown or even recession in the United States would not be good for the global economy.

"That said, the Philippines appears in relatively good shape," she said.

AP

A Filipino trader steps out of his booth as he takes a break during morning trading at the Philippine Stock Exchange in the financial district of Makati, south of Manila, Philippines on Wednesday Oct. 8, 2008. Markets in Hong Kong, Australia, South Korea, Thailand and the Philippines were all down more than 7 percent. Shanghai's index was down 3.8 percent.

Peso rebounds; stocks continue slide

MANILA, Philippines—The peso rebounded Thursday after the central banks of five major countries launched coordinated interest rate cuts on Wednesday, but on the stock market, the main index fell for a fifth day despite bargain hunting.

The peso opened trading at the day's low of 47.80 to the dollar but closed at the day's high of 47.39, gaining from Wednesday's finish of 47.75.

The Philippine Stock Exchange index slid 19.3 points, or 0.8 percent, to finish at 2,288.44—its lowest close since Aug. 25, 2006 when it settled at 2,274.53. The broader all-shares index fell 6.45 points, or 0.43 percent, to 1,466.29, with 66 losers versus 28 gainers and 50 shares unchanged. Turnover totaled P2.236 billion.

15 Pinoy seamen on hijacked ship freed

By VERONICA UY
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—(UPDATE) The 19 crew members of the Japanese-operated, Panama-flagged chemical tanker M/T Irene, including 15 Filipino seamen, have been freed, the Department of Foreign Affairs said Thursday.

The ship and its crew were freed by Somali pirates at around 11:30 p.m. (Manila time, Wednesday), and are now headed toward Fujairah, United Arab Emirates, said DFA Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Affairs Esteban Conejos Jr.

"All crew members are safe," Conejos said.

This brings down to 67 the number of Filipino seamen still being held captive by Somali pirates in six ships.

M/T Irene was hijacked last August 21 in the Gulf of Aden.

The DFA said it was now coordinating with ship owners for the repatriation of the Filipino seamen.

The Filipino crew members of M/T Irene are second engineer Noel Estrella of Iloilo; third engineers Darwin Enraca of Cavite and Pedro Mucas of Iloilo; fourth engineer Joey Caballero of Pangasinan; pipefitter Pepe Dela Cruz of Cavite; bosun Joel Cepeda of Bacolod; able-bodied seamen Marlon Cariño of Isabela, Vicente Panopio of Batangas, and Cyrus Briton of Bacolod;

Sorrton Bolas of Benguet; motmen Esteban Abecia of Cagayan de Oro, Edgar Asoque of Leyte, and Anthony Apon of Cavite; chief cook Isidro San Diego of Bulacan; and messman Danilo Labaro of Pangasinan.

? LABOR FRONT

Inspections at worksites

By FERDIE P. DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Q: Can Labor conduct inspectionS at an employer's worksite?

A: An administrative schedule of worksite inspections shall be established each year, according to the new Alien Labor Rules and Regulations. The Regulations state that worksites are normally inspected once per calendar year, and not more than four times in any calendar year. Follow up inspections of worksites, however, may be conducted with more frequency if violations are found.

■ ■ ■ ■

Q: Can Labor conduct inspections any time?

A: Labor inspections at worksites should be conducted during normal hours. But if an administrative warrant is obtained, inspections can also be done at any other reasonable time under the circumstances.

The Labor investigator must present himself or herself to the authorized representative at the worksite. The investigator must also provide identification as a Labor investigator. The investigator must inform the authorized representative at the worksite that the worksite has been chosen for inspection. The investigator must furnish to such representative a copy of the current statutes and regulations authorizing the inspections.

■ ■ ■ ■

Q: What will happen if the authorized representative refuses to allow inspection at the worksites?

A: The Regulations state that if the authorized representative refuses to permit entry or does not consent to allow inspection, the investigator may not proceed with the inspection unless an administrative warrant is obtained. The investigator must serve notice upon the authorized representative of an administrative hearing at which the employer shall be required to show cause why the employer should not be disqualified by Labor from employing alien workers or enjoined from future refusals with respect to inspection.

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Galoc field finally starts producing oil

By ABIGAIL L. HO, TJ BURGONIO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—After numerous delays, the Galoc oil field off northwest Palawan has finally produced oil, boosting the country's hope to become 60-percent energy self-sufficient by 2010.

First discovered in 1981 and appraised in 1988, the Galoc field was left undeveloped due to the risks associated with its development and the then low price of oil.

Delays in the delivery of the first oil mean that its operators have missed this year's oil price rally. Global crude oil prices are now around $89 a barrel, well off highs near $150 a barrel in mid-July.

In a joint statement, Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes and Jeff Davison, chief operating officer of service contract operator Galoc Production Co. (GPC), said the first well opened at 10:45 a.m., with first oil on board the vessel by 11:20 a.m.

GPC had repeatedly missed its first oil targets this year due mainly to bad weather.

Based on the consortium's timetable, flow testing would be conducted over the coming weeks to stabilize production. Upon stabilization, production is expected to reach 20,000 barrels a day from the two wells.

6 percent of oil demand

For the remainder of 2008, production should average around 17,000 barrels a day.

"We are expecting to get 20,000 barrels a day in the first 90 days of commercial production. That will provide for 6 percent of the daily oil demand of the country," Reyes said.

Independent appraiser Gaffney, Cline and Associates had estimated the production rate at the Galoc field to reach 23,000 barrels a day, on average, for the first year of production.

The Galoc field, 65 km northwest of Palawan, holds oil reserves estimated at 10 million barrels.

The new crude will raise the Philippines' domestic oil output by some 70 percent to 42,500 bpd, a welcome addition to the country, which imports nearly all of its requirements.

But Galoc's crude, also called Palawan Light, could find it hard attracting customers as it has a higher sulphur content than most Asia-Pacific grades, at 1.64 percent.

It is also coming on stream at a time of weakening oil demand in Asia, even as Vietnam has started selling first cargoes of its new light sweet Song Doc crude.

Reduction in imported oil

In June, Reyes said Galoc's output would be aimed at local refineries.

Malacañang officials hailed the extraction of oil from the Galoc field saying this would reduce the country's dependence on imported oil and save the country millions of dollars.

"The President is optimistic that this new development will positively impact on the administration's efforts to reduce the country's annual oil importation of $6 billion, and in turn will also contain the increasing cost of food and other commodities," Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said, reading from a statement.

This, he added, would translate into $1.4 billion foreign exchange savings for the Galoc oil well's lifetime of three to five years.

The country imported some $8.8 billion worth of oil last year, up from $8 billion the previous year. The total imports reached 120.1 million barrels in 2007.

GPC owns 58.29 percent of the Galoc contract area covered by Service Contract 14C, while Australian firms Nido Petroleum Ltd. and Otto Energy Ltd. hold 22.28 percent and 18.28 percent, respectively.

2 MILF rebels surrender to military

GENERAL SANTOS City—Two Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) rebels, one of them a ranking leader, surrendered to the military and yielded firearms and explosives on Wednesday.

Col. Rolando Rodil, commander of the Army's 25th Infantry Battalion in Sarangani province, identified the MILF leader as Rico Watamama, deputy commander of the MILF's 107th Base Command.

Rodil said Watamama, who was injured in a clash with soldiers in Central Mindanao, sent surrender feelers and yielded on the same day.

Aside from a Garand rifle, Watamama also turned over 13 kilograms of ammonium nitrate, a bomb-making component, he said.

Rodil said another wounded MILF fighter, identified as Nasser Bansil, also yielded on the same day.

Bansil also belongs to the MILF's 107th Base Command.

"Their surrender came in the wake of continued offensives against those responsible for the hostilities in Maasim, Kiamba and Maitum towns," he said referring to the MILF-led attacks in August. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

Customs faces probe over tainted milk

AP

In this photo released by the Presidential Close-in Photographers Office, PCPO, Malacanang Palace in Manila, Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo checks milk and other milk products being sold in supermarkets to assure they are melamine-free Thursday Oct. 9, 2008 in Manila, Philippines.

By CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO, MARGAUX ORTIZ, ALCUIN PAPA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—The Ombudsman will investigate the possible involvement of Bureau of Customs (BOC) officials in the smuggling of tainted China milk products into the country.

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago suggested the investigation to Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez during Thursday's Senate hearing on the Ombudsman's proposed P1-billion budget for next year.

"The importation of toxic infant formula from China falls within the jurisdiction of the Ombudsman," Santiago told reporters after the hearing, pointing out the Ombudsman also had the power to "go out in the field and investigate."

Santiago said she asked Gutierrez to look into the offices of the customs deputy commissioner for enforcement, chief of the customs intelligence and investigation services, and national customs police, which she said were "mandated with the main job of preventing smuggling."

No record of registration

Santiago early this week filed an urgent resolution asking the Senate blue ribbon committee to investigate the three customs offices, stressing the China milk products must have been smuggled into the country since the Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD) had no record of their registration.

When the blue ribbon committee begins its probe, Santiago said she would ask that the heads of the three customs offices be summoned.

"If they cannot prevent smuggling, particularly when it might result in the potential death of infants, their offices might as well be abolished," she said, adding that one way to do this was by not giving them a budget.

Congress is deliberating the proposed P1.4-trillion budget for 2009.

Commissioner spared

Assistant Ombudsman and field investigation office (FIO) head Mark Jalandoni said investigators would seek to determine how Jolly Cow Slender Milk, Yili Fresh Milk and Mengniu Drink, which were later found to contain melamine, had entered the Philippines.

"As of now, the office of Commissioner Napoleon Morales would be spared from the investigation because we do not see any direct link between him and the release of the contaminated products by the BOC," Jalandoni said.

The BOC, meantime, has started reviewing the importation records of all shipments of Chinese milk products this year in light of the discovery of melamine in at least three milk brands.

Morales on Thursday ordered all import entry documents for milk products filed between January and September 2008 reexamined to see if they conformed to the country's regulations for milk importation.

Talks start on Marcos mansions

By VINCENT CABREZA
NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

BAGUIO CITY—Local officials have started talks to decide if the city government will block or join a Nov. 5 auction that the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) has scheduled for four mansions previously owned by the family of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos here.

Vice Mayor Daniel Fariñas on Thursday said he was surprised that the lowest bid which PCGG posted for the auction was only P11 million.

"We can pursue a restraining order or we can actually bid for the properties ourselves. The opening bid price is far lower than we anticipated, considering the huge back taxes [that the Marcoses and their allies] owe the city," Fariñas said.

Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr. said he had wanted to buy back the structures on Outlook Drive, which is about two blocks from the presidential Mansion, to help redeem over 20 years of real estate taxes due from the Marcos mansions.

"There is money. If the prices are this low, we can actually try to buy them and develop the properties ourselves," Fariñas said.

Some of the councilors in the talks said they are wary about the low opening bid prices because the sale may have been designed for a particular bidder.

They asked not to be named because they have no information about the Marcos properties' legal status.

They also declined to comment when asked if the low bid prices could actually encourage former Marcos associates to buy these lots back for the family.

The city government has been talking to PCGG since 2007, after former First Lady Imelda Marcos was cleared of tax evasion cases by the courts in July 2007.

PHILIPPINE BRIEFS

BIR chief resigns—Palace

MANILA, Philippines--Malacanang has confirmed the resignation of Bureau of Internal Revenue Commissioner Lilian Hefti. Deputy presidential spokesman Anthony Golez said in a text message that Hefti submitted his resignation days ago to President Gloria Mapacapagal-Arroyo. "President Arroyo has already made her choice as to Hefti's replacement but the announcement will be upon the arrival of Secretary Gary Teves tomorrow [Saturday] who is in the US," added Golez. Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita in an interview at the House of Representatives cited health reasons for Hefti's resignation. ***(INQUIRER.net)***

Rise in tourist arrivals noted

MANILA, Philippines—Despite the global financial crisis, more foreigners entered the country in September of this year compared to the same period last year. Immigrations Commissioner Marcelino Libanan said Thursday that there was an eight percent increase in the number of foreigners who arrived in the country this month. Libanan said that a total of 384,948 foreigners arrived at the Ninoy Aquino International Airports and other ports of entry last month compared to the 356,760 who visited the country in September 2007. ***(INQUIRER.net)***

China medicines seized

SAN MARCELINO, ZAMBALES—Agents of the Presidential Anti-Smuggling Group on Wednesday seized P4.23 million worth of medicines imported from China through the Subic Bay Freeport. The shipment of mostly unlabelled capsules and pills was found in a 20-foot container at the freeport's naval supply depot on Oct. 2, Undersecretary Antonio Villar Jr., PASG chief, said. "There's a possibility that these may be stuffed with other drugs,'" Villar told Inquirer by phone. He said he has ordered an investigation and asked the Bureau of Food and Drugs Administration for help. Import documents showed that the items were brought in by a registered locator at the freeport. The container arrived last week, it was learned. ***(INQUIRER.net)***

NPA camp found

DAVAO CITY—Scout Rangers discovered an abandoned New People's Army camp in Barangay Simulao in Boston, Davao Oriental on Oct. 6. Lt. Col. Romeo Brawner Jr., Army public affairs chief, said the soldiers also recovered two anti-tank mines, six magazines of M-14 rifle, a butane gas burner and communist documents from the camp. On Oct. 2, police arrested four suspected communist rebels during a raid on another New People's Army (NPA) camp in the jungles of Compostela Valley. ***(INQUIRER.net)***

Cyanide kills 2

STA. CRUZ, ILOCOS SUR—Two fishermen have died while 48 others have been treated in a hospital allegedly due to chemical poisoning in Barangay Pilar here two weeks ago. Police identified the dead as Ronald Jacinto, 28, and Loreto Cabradilla, 48. Both are from the fishing village of Pilar. ***(INQUIRER.net)***

ASEAN HEALTH MINISTERS AP

From left, Brunei's Pehin Dato Suyoi Osman, Cambodia's Mam Bunheng, Indonesia's Siti Fadilah Supari, Laos' Vice Minister Eksavang Vongvichit, Malaysia's Deputy Minister Hj. Abdul Latif B. Ahmad, Myanmar's Deputy Minister Paing Soe, Philippines' Health Secretary Francisco Duque, Singapore's Khaw Boon Wan, Thailand's Deputy Permant Secretary Siripon Kanshana, Vietnam's Vice Minister Cao Minh Quang, and ASEAN Deputy Secretary General Soeung Rathchavy, pose during the opening of the 9th ASEAN Health Ministers meeting in Manila, Philippines, Thursday Oct. 9, 2008. The scandal over tainted Chinese milk and dairy products was expected to be raised as a food safety concern during the two-day meeting.

BPO firm to open branch in Leyte

By JOEY A. GABIETA
VISAYAS BUREAU

TACLOBAN City, Philippines—A business process outsourcing company will set up a multi-million-peso facility in Leyte sometime in 2008.

The APAC Customer Service, which has Manila as its main office for its Philippine operations, will set up a branch at the Leyte Academic Center in Palo, Leyte, the first-ever in the Visayas, according to Nelieta Baguna, unit head of the Leyte Tourism and Investment Promotion Center.

"We welcome their coming here. And what makes it more exciting is that they would be operating in the Visayas for the first time and it is in Leyte," Baguna said.

She added that the APAC facility, which would have 500 seats and would cater to clients mostly based in the United States.

Baguna estimated that the APAC Customer Service would be investing over P100 million for their operation in Leyte.

"It's one of the biggest investments in the province under Governor (Jericho) Petilla," she said.

Baguna also said that based on an agreement between the APAC Customer Service and the provincial government, the company would lease an area at the Leyte Academic Center for three years with an option to renew it for the same number of years.

The company would be occupying the LAC's gymnasium, which it has renovated for its operations scheduled to start in the first quarter of 2009.

APAC Customer Service employs about 8,000 people from its existing 11 customer interaction centers both in the United States and in the country.

Its clients include companies engaged in financial services, communications, government, healthcare, insurance, parcel delivery, utility, pharmaceutical, retail, automotive, entertainment and travel.

RP ratifies free trade accord with Japan

By JIM GOMEZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine Senate ratified a wide-ranging free trade agreement with Japan that the government hopes will usher in huge investments but critics fear could hurt local industries and allow the dumping of toxic waste.

The Senate voted 16-4 late Wednesday to ratify the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement. Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and then Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi signed the pact in 2006 after four years of tough negotiations.

The pact, ratified by the Japanese parliament last year, faced an uphill battle in the opposition-dominated Senate, where some members argued that it favored Japan and should be renegotiated.

Sen. Mar Roxas, who backed the accord, said its approval would bolster the country's competitiveness in Southeast Asia in trying times.

"We are witnessing a financial tsunami going around the financial centers around the world," Roxas said. "It is timely that we acted on JPEPA at this time."

Arroyo lauded the Senate for approving the treaty.

Arroyo's key aides launched a campaign last year to get the Senate's approval, warning that the Philippines could lose more than US$4 billion in potential Japanese investments in the local automobile, textile and food processing industries if the deal was not ratified.

Those investments are expected to generate more than 330,000 jobs, they said.

Under the pact, Japan pledged to turn the Philippines into a preferred trading partner and employ 1,000 Filipino nurses and caregivers in the next two years.

Japan is the country's second-biggest agricultural market after the United States, primarily importing bananas, pineapples and other fruit. The Philippines could become a bigger market for Japanese automakers once it slashes vehicle tariffs.

Japan also is a top provider of development funds, some of which have been used to develop southern Philippine regions battered by decades of rebellion by Muslim separatists.

No deal, a left-wing movement, threatened to protest and ask the Supreme Court to stop the treaty's enforcement, saying it violating Philippine laws. It did not elaborate.

Philippine officials have denied allegations by environmental groups that the accord would allow Japan to dump toxic waste in the country in exchange for economic concessions. They said the two countries exchanged "diplomatic notes" stating there would be no such exports and that Philippine environmental laws will be respected.

Roxas, a former trade secretary, said the government should provide "safety nets" to workers and industries that could be affected by an expected flood of Japanese imports.

$$ PERSONAL FINANCE

12 steps to a jolly Christmas budget

Editor's Note: This is part of a partnership between INQUIRER.net and Citibank to help readers handle their personal finances well.

Question: Christmas will be here soon! In the past years, I did all the preparations and gift shopping two weeks before Christmas, and I would always end up sick, tired and feeling broke afterwards. What can I do to make things better this year?—Bea

Answer: You're right, Bea, Christmas is just around the corner. Christmas carols are already playing and holiday bazaars are now being held in many venues all around town.

The key to managing Christmas preparations well is simple: plan early. That includes making your Christmas budget this early so you won't feel tired, spent and broke after the holidays. Doing all the budgeting, shopping, wrapping of gifts, and partying in the two weeks before Christmas is a recipe for disaster for your health and pockets.

Below are surefire ways to making your Christmas budget and sticking to it:

1. Have a general worksheet by the end of this week. This can be on paper or on your computer. On the left column, write down: gifts, supplies, postage and courier service, décor, parties, charity, and any other expense item you may have this Christmas season. By writing down expected expense items, you are made aware of the expenses you may incur in the next three months aside from your usual living expenses.

2. Find out how much you generally spent last year for all the above items. A ballpark figure is enough; the purpose is to set an amount you more or less may expect to spend this holiday season. You may want to add at least 10 percent to last year's amount to cover this year's expenses.

3. Review your finances this incoming last quarter of the year. How much will you be earning? How much will you be spending for your day-to-day living? And how much can you set aside every payday to meet your target Christmas fund? Take a look at your savings too and determine how much you can get from your fund to cover the season's expenses. Aim to have at least one-third of your Christmas budget on hand by October, the next one-third in November, and the last one-third on the first week of December.

4. Given your total spending budget determined in number three, allocate it by allotting a specific amount per expense item in your worksheet. For instance, you may want to set aside P10,000 for gifts, P1,000 for décor (especially if last year's Christmas tree and lights are still in good condition), and P1,500 for supplies such as gift boxes, ribbons, cards, and the like. Stay within your total budget amount. Ideally, do numbers one to four above this first week of October.

5. Make a gift list specifying the names of people you want to give gifts to. Group them into family, friends, business associates, and clients. Make a separate list of people you will be sending greeting cards to. Make room for about two or three recipients of extra gifts just to be sure.

6. Apportion your gift budget among the names on your gift list. Allot a ceiling amount for getting a gift for each recipient. To save on cost, consider giving group gifts such as a basket of baked goods to people working in one department in the office.

7. Now that you have your gift list with amounts tacked onto each recipient, start shopping this October and continue on until November. Since you have more time now as it's not yet December, commit to find gifts within your budget. Go to bazaars, department stores, bargain havens like Divisoria and Baclaran, and weekend markets where you may be able to find great deals. Shop this early for Christmas décor and supplies too. There are also a lot of good finds in online shopping sites so search the Internet for local sellers offering unique goods at reasonable prices.

8. If you have the talent for cooking or doing crafts, consider making personalized gifts. These will be well appreciated by the recipients, and will lower your cost.

9. If you are going to host a party in the coming holiday season, plan for it early as well. Based on your budget, decide on the venue and menu, and even a caterer, if this is what you prefer. Then book the caterer and venue as early as possible. By doing so, you may be able to get lower rates and preferred dates. A way to cut on costs when it comes to parties is to have potluck gatherings. This may be more fun as well as guests will be able to sample each other's family specialty.

10. For those people who seem to have everything, why not give charitable donations in their name? Any amount that can help people in need will be appreciated.

11. Every time you spend for something, write it down. Keep a running balance on your worksheet and compare this with your budget to see how much funds you have left. Stay within budget as much as possible. At the end of the season, if you find that you have stuck to your budget, celebrate your success! Your reward may be as simple as a massage at a spa or a movie date.

12. Keep your worksheet for reference next year when you make your next Christmas budget.

A workable and realistic budget can be a great tool for you to plan your holiday season well.

INQUIRER.net and Citibank invite readers to ask questions regarding financial matters. Send your questions to personal_finance@inquirer.net. Readers are solely responsible for their own investment decisions and should thus conduct their own research and due diligence and obtain professional advice. INQUIRER.net will not be liable for any loss or damage caused by a reader's reliance on information obtained from our web site.

Maharlika – PinoyStyle

Angelina Jolie: Raising twins 'twice as fun'

By RUBEN V. NEPALES
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

LOS ANGELES, California—It's an unglamorous route, but if you're Angelina Jolie and you must walk through a hotel's kitchen and ride the service elevator to get to your destination with minimum fuss, then so be it.

That was how Angelina entered the Conrad Suite of New York's Waldorf-Astoria Hotel last week—through the kitchen doors. "I snuck in the back. I tend to do that," the actress quipped, smiling and looking stunning, as usual. With those words, Angelina set the tone for our latest press con with her, in which she talked about her twins, Knox and Vivienne (she volunteered that she was styled earlier while she was holding one on each arm); the other kids in the growing Pitt-Jolie household, Maddox, Zahara, Shiloh and Pax (she said they're not quite done yet); Brad, of course; and her new film, "The Changeling."

In a performance that should win her a Best Actress nomination in the coming awards season, Angelina plays Christine, whose young son, Walter, disappears in 1928 Los Angeles. Five months later, a corrupt police department, eager for a publicity coup in solving the case, returns a boy to her. Christine knows he is not Walter. Based on a true story, "The Changeling," adroitly directed by Clint Eastwood, tells how Christine, in an era when women didn't challenge the system, pushes the police to keep looking for her real son.

AP

In this Oct. 4, 2008 file photo, actress Angelina Jolie attends a New York Film Festival screening of "Changeling" at the Ziegfeld Theatre in New York.

Following are excerpts from our interview:

What are the joys and difficulties of having twin babies? How are the other kids relating to the twins?

It's great. Yeah, during hair and make-up [sessions], I had one [baby] on each [arm]. It's so much fun. It's hard work and we're exhausted. Two is twice as hard but twice as fun. Like this morning, we all had jet lag so we tried to get to bed at a decent hour. Then about 4:30 in the morning, everybody started to wake up and Brad took them for me. He said, "You've got to work so I'll take it on" and he went out. I just heard chaos in the living room for about four hours. I tried to sleep but I kept wondering what was happening.

Brad is an amazing, dedicated father. It's absolute chaos but the kids are really forming beautiful relationships. They (the older kids) are very loving [towards] the babies. I think that has a lot to do with the fact that we're not working right now. We've had the kids home schooled. We've been together all the time. We haven't gone away or spent too much time with the babies. Everybody's getting a lot of time, so everybody's doing pretty good.

You gave such an emotional performance. Do you detach yourself after shooting and get those emotions out of the way?

This one was very hard for me. I read the script and I couldn't put it down. But I didn't want to do it. I didn't want to touch something that has to do with children being kidnapped. It scared me. It's my biggest fear—anything happening to my kids.

But I found myself telling the story to Brad and somebody else. I was thinking about the woman and what she went through. I couldn't get the story out of my mind. Through the whole process of the film, I was hugging and sleeping with all the kids. I wanted to know where everybody was at all times. I wanted them with me on the set. I was very emotional. It was the hardest thing to do—facing my biggest nightmare. It was very difficult. I never let it go. Everybody knew during that time that I was going to be a bit of a basket case. I was crying a lot at home and hugging everybody too much.

Following up on that question, how emotionally resonant was this role specifically with you?

I'm a mom so it doesn't take much to imagine these things. Trying to raise children is what I do every day and trying to do it right. Anything happening to them is the only nightmare you have. I don't think you have to be a mother to [portray] a mother but in this case, I don't think I would have played the role with as much emotion or understanding if I weren't a mom. I thought about my children every day. I thought about my own mother. This character is based on my mom, because she was a very soft woman who was very shy to speak up but when it came to her kids, she would find a way. She had that. So I had pictures of my mom with me throughout this [movie] in my pocket, in my purse.

What do you teach your kids in light of this movie's story?

I try to teach them about their own instincts, who they are, what's right and wrong. Often they ask when they watch TV, "Mommy, is he a bad guy? Is he doing something bad? Is he hurting somebody?" My son is curious about the military and he'll ask, "Is this country good or bad?" I'll go, "It depends who you ask, honey. It's complicated, but to question government and authority is important."

You chose to have your babies somewhere else. Are you making a statement about what's going on in America?

I'm very proud to be an American. All my children have American passports. What I think is best about America is that it is a melting pot—a mixture of many different races and nations. I expect my children to appreciate and respect other parts of the world and learn about them. That to me is what being an American is. My children were born in other countries. They will learn about those countries and respect them. They are Asian, African—they're very proud of that as well but they are Americans, too, like their parents.

You have become one of the most famous women on earth. It's not that easy for you to be just Angelina and have that access to people.

I do wish I had more freedom to do things, especially with the children. But I feel blessed every day. I wake up and I live with my favorite people in the world. They're the funniest people I've ever met. He (Brad) is my best friend and we have a big, loud, busy family so I certainly don't feel isolated from what's important to me. I do have dear friends and people I work with.

I want my children to have more freedom. Hopefully, we'll be less in the public eye as they grow up and they'll have more of that (freedom). I live with Brad who's had more to deal with. We share that. We find a way to just make it fine and fun. We're grateful for life, for everything we get to have. Do I wish I could just walk down the street with my kids? Sure, yeah. Go out with them, get an ice cream and pretzels in Manhattan like my mom did with me—but I can't.

Cesar Montano bonds with son Diego

By Dolly Anne Carvajal
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Cesar Montano sent me a text message all the way from Sydney: "Amiga, I'm bonding with my 13-year-old son Diego. He's almost as tall as me already. He lives here with his mom. I'm teaching him how to sing Cat Stevens' 'Father and Son' so even if we're apart, he will always remember my advice to him, which is in that song."

Montano

Mr. Singing Bee is also Mr. Doting Dad. In spite of his hectic schedule, Buboy finds a way to make all his six kids (Angelo and Angela with his first wife, Diego with Teresa Loyzaga, Angeline Isabelle, Samantha Angeline and Angel Francesca with wifey Sunshine Cruz) feel loved in equal measure.

Back to work

Ces Drilon is raring to go back to work in "Bandila" after her controversial captivity by the Abu Sayyaf. But she relished her time away from the cameras.

"I enjoyed not wearing make-up for three months," she says. "I rekindled ties with friends. Most of all, I'm thankful that I'm still alive to savor my kids' loving words to me."

Any apprehensions about newscasting again? "That I might break my promise to my loved ones not to set foot in Mindanao for the time being."

To lighten the mood, I teased Ces (we fondly call each other V.S., meaning Vagina Sister since we got close during our guest stint at "Vagina Monologues" in 2003). "What about being a captive of love?" She laughed. "Saka na ang questions about love life."

What matters is that Ces loves what she does and does what she loves against all odds.

Adopted children

Piolo Pascual and Angel Locsin are now adopted son and daughter, respectively, of Bukidnon. They had the time of their lives shooting in that province. Adoption rites were held last Sept. 29 at Paaralang Sentral ng Impasugon. If there could only be similar rites for legions of girls who dream of being adopted by Papa Piolo and many guys who want to make Angel their babe.

MVP

It was a delight to chat with PLDT chair Manny Pangilinan or MVP as he's fondly called by his colleagues. It has long been his vision that telecommunications and media merge.

Are they buying a TV network anytime soon? "We're always like a bride in the altar without a bridegroom," he says in jest. His latest advocacy is "Project 2G: Gabay Guro" which will be launched on Oct. 10. "We intend to make 10/10 Teacher's Day yearly," says MVP. "It aims to foster the professional development of teachers through scholarship grants, English proficiency, computer literacy programs and pay tribute to the unsung heroes who cultivate our minds. All teachers have to do is sign up for the program in their schools to get a Gabay Guro Tribute card which will entitle them to avail of benefits from our partner establishments."

Teachers are close to MVP's heart because he used to teach Catechism at the National Center for Mental Health while he was in college. Kudos to MVP—Most Valuable Philanthropist!

Back-to-back concert

I am counting the days and my heartbeats till the "Rihanna and Chris Brown Live in Manila" back-to-back concert on Nov. 16 (Call 891-9999. Venue to be announced later). Music Management International and All Youth Channels Inc. (MTV Philippines) bagged the rights to the much awaited event.

Rihanna, a multi-platinum MTV VMA, Grammy and American Music Award winning artist, earned the coveted title of international superstar at the young age of 19. In just three years, Rihanna already had multiple No. 1 hits, two MTV Video Music Awards and three Billboard Awards under her belt.

On the other hand, MTV VMA, Billboard and Teen Choice Award winning artist Chris Brown is the first male solo artist to release a single that went straight to the top of the Billboard singles chart. His eponymous first album won three Billboard Awards in 2006 including the prestigious Artist of the Year.

Maharlika – Opinyon

EDITORIAL

Now what?

It turned out that ASEAN Secretary-General Surin Pitsuwan's confidence was not misplaced. While on a visit to Manila last July, the Thai politician who now heads the Jakarta-based secretariat of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, said he was fully confident the Philippine Senate would ratify the ASEAN Charter. He expressed his view despite the lack of assurance from any of the senators he had spoken with and despite the lack of a sense of urgency among senators about calendaring a vote on the charter.

On Wednesday, the Senate voted for the measure 16-1, with the lone dissenting vote cast by Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr.

The ratification brings the 10-member regional grouping one more step closer to the next stage of organizational integration. Only Indonesia has yet to ratify the charter, which was passed in Singapore last year and is scheduled for promulgation in Bangkok at the end of this year. (In Jakarta, however, ratification gained a boost on Wednesday following the endorsement of a legislative committee. Indonesia is expected to ratify the charter by next week.)

The charter opens a new chapter in the history of ASEAN. Essentially, it allows the regional association, which has ever-closer economic ties, to speed up integration on the political front. It seeks to uphold democratic ideals and to protect human rights—a giant leap forward, considering the history of the member-countries.

But it is precisely because of this complex history that Pimentel voted against ratification. His no vote is a protest against the human rights situation in Burma (Myanmar), and in particular against the lack of a real ASEAN mechanism for enforcing human rights or of real sanctions in case of violations.

Pimentel's concern is echoed in Indonesia, too, the largest ASEAN member. "At first, we felt that if countries like Myanmar are not obliged to comply with what they sign, then ratifying the charter would be worthless," Indonesian Foreign Ministry spokesman Teuku Faizasyah said.

Call it the curse of the junta. The adverse consequences of the decision to allow Burma entry into ASEAN continue to haunt the regional alliance. Membership was predicated on the assumption that constructive engagement would work. As far as we can see, it has worked only in the aftermath of the devastating calamity that killed hundreds of thousands of Burmese citizens, when the junta needed both to source outside aid and to save face by coursing the aid through ASEAN. In other instances, such as last year's crackdown on protesting monks or the never-ending detention of democratic icon Aung San Suu Kyi, the military generals who rule a once-great country have almost always turned a deaf ear to ASEAN.

Thus, the ratification of the charter is yet another gamble that the policy of constructive engagement will work. In the rationalizing words of the Indonesian foreign ministry spokesman, "But Myanmar's ratification is progress. We're counting on Myanmar to gradually comply with the charter." ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

Envy

There's The Rub

By CONRADO DE QUIROS

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

My fascination with recent events in the United States does not just come from seeing those events as having far-reaching effects on the globe. It also comes from envy. Envy at the sight of a country that, though fallen into hard times, has rules, has laws, has a system in which the citizens may naturally expect certain things from their government and vice versa. The very things we do not have.

The bailout for Wall Street, of course, has been analyzed and debated at length. But there is one aspect there that has not been mentioned in the analyses and indeed can only be glimpsed in reference to a country like ours. That is the sacredness of taxpayers' money.

The reason the bailout met with violent hostility from the American public, which forced their representatives to initially reject it, was the horrific idea of government using taxpayers' money, or people's money, or the sum taken from the average worker's pay for which he expects health and other social benefits in return—three ways of saying the same thing—to bail out the greedy rich. Or so the Wall Street executives had been depicted by everyone from left to right, from McCain to Obama, from expert to layman. It was only later, by showing that not rescuing Wall Street would plunge Main Street—ordinary homeowners, shopkeepers, and borrowers—into a deeper hole that government officials, elected and non-elected, managed to appease the public. But barely.

You're a Filipino, you've got to be impressed by that. You've got to be shocked by the realization that in other countries taxpayers' money is a concept that lodges deep in the public mind. Taxpayers' money belongs to the citizens, it does not belong to government officials. Taxpayers' money is there to be used for the taxpayers, it is not there to be used for the mistresses or boy toys of public officials. You do not mess around with taxpayers' money, unless you want to reap the whirlwind.

I've always thought, and said, that was the root of why corruption riots in this country like the godsend plagues in Pharaoh's Egypt: We do not have a concept of taxpayers' money. It's just an empty phrase for us. In the end, it is not our public officials' humongous venality or the looseness of our laws (or crookedness of our courts) that makes epic corruption not just possible but inevitable. Although, of course, the venality and crookedness matter, too. It's the notion that taxpayers' money does not belong to us but to our public officials. It's the notion that taxpayers' money is our "balato," or gratuity, to public officials and not our claim to health and social benefits. We do not really expect our taxes to come back to us, other than out of the goodness of our public officials' hearts. That is the engraved invitation to corruption; that is what unleashes the floodgates of pillage. Of course, you'll hear all sorts of protestations there, but that is the real thought that lodges deep in the Filipino psyche.

The second thing that has made me violently envious of what's happening in the United States right now is the elections.

At the very least, that's so because however you fault the American system, argument and reason and debate have a capacity to decide its elections. Image may play a part there, machinery and organization may play a part there, money and strategy may play a part there. But at the end of the day, it's what the candidates say that will prove decisive. Particularly in these elections.

American elections have a much narrower ideological amplitude than European ones. You see that in McCain's attempts to depict the Obama camp as "leftist." A thing that would draw hysterical laughter elsewhere in the world. But though the Democrats and Republicans do not represent the extremes of the ideological spectrum, they do have real differences, particularly today, particularly after eight years of the Bush administration. They have real differences on how to conduct foreign policy, they have real differences on how to fix the American economy—both of which will impact tremendously upon the world. And as the debates show, how Obama and McCain (and Biden and Palin) argue their cause could decide the outcome of the elections.

Here, if there are any fundamental differences between the "presidentiables" it is only on which hairstylist they prefer.

Far more to be envious about, you can be certain about several things in the United States today. First and foremost, you know that George W. Bush will be history after the end of this year. By next year, the United States will have a new president, who will probably be Barack Obama. The system is ironclad. A president may have only two terms, at the end of which he has to step down. Look at Bill Clinton and Jimmy Carter: They are now just Citizens Clinton and Carter, free to banter sacrilegiously with David Letterman and Jon Stewart.

You can be sure as well that the vote of each and every American will be duly noted and counted. Voters are expected to tumble out like a flood this year given that these are crucial times and that Americans need a leader they can trust. And you can be damn sure the votes of these voters will not be stolen wholesale at some point, replaced with ballots toting paw-prints rather than thumbprints, with Obama or McCain or Bush getting through to an election official inveigling them to secure a victory for them over their rival by one million votes.

Like the sacredness of taxpayers' money, the sacredness of elections is a given in any democratic country. It lodges deep in the psyche. It is expected to be upheld as a matter of course. Here, well, we don't even know if Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo will be gone in 2010. I myself am certain she won't.

So let me just gaze on the United States for a while, and wallow in envy.

The mob of 1719

Looking Back

By AMBETH OCAMPO

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Before I began my lecture on Felix Resurreccion Hidalgo at the National Museum last Saturday, I went into the Hall of the Masters of the National Gallery (the old Legislative Building) to see both Juan Luna's "Spoliarium" and Hidalgo's "Assassination of Governor Bustamante." I was disappointed, because the Hidalgo painting was covered with scaffolding, as it was undergoing restoration and cleaning. Nevertheless, one could peek through the heavy equipment and see the angry faces of Dominican and Augustinian friars. It is a terrifying sight to see murder and mayhem in their eyes, and then, as you look up past the paint cans, you feel as if you were actually there.

At the top of the stairs, the ill-fated governor is losing his balance. There is a rope around his body, and at the other end friars are dragging him down. A Dominican stands before him brandishing a crucifix in a violent gesture reserved for the exorcism of demons in a possessed person. Behind the governor brandishing a sharp object is an Augustinian. This was the death blow. It was a tragic end for a man who attempted to run the country well. Then as now, trying to collect the right taxes, trying to stop graft and corruption, going against the Church can be dangerous.

The painter is said to have given his work the title "Iglesia contra el Estado" ("Church against the State"). But its theme was so controversial, its execution so powerful that the huge canvas was rolled up and never exhibited in Hidalgo's lifetime. It was publicly exhibited only twice in the last century: in 1974 at the National Museum and in 1989 at the Metropolitan Museum of Manila. We must thank the family of the late National Artist Leandro V. Locsin, especially Mrs. Cecilia Y. Locsin, for making this long-hidden national treasure available to the public.

The account by a contemporary witness is in Volume 44 of the so-called "Blair and Robertson." The governor and the Church did not see eye to eye, and Bustamante had Francisco de la Cuesta, archbishop of Manila, thrown in jail. So at the prodding of the religious, a crowd was mobilized into what could probably be seen as one of the first exercises of People Power before 1986. The difference was that the 1986 revolt was peaceful and little or no blood was shed, whereas in 1719 the church bells rang and the crowd turned into a mob that stormed the palace. From Blair and Robertson we read about that bloody evening of Oct. 11, 1719:

"The Franciscans, Dominicans and Augustinians came out from their convents, each as a body, carrying in their hands crucifixes and shouting, 'Long Live the Church! Long Live King Felipe V!' They were joined by people of all classes and proceeded to the church of San Agustin. The governor who was roused from his sleep and informed of the arrival of the mob sprang up and ordered the guards to keep back the crowd. He dispatched an order to the fort to discharge artillery at the crowd, but he was so little obeyed that, although they applied a match to two cannons, these where aimed so low that the balls were buried in the middle of the esplanade of the fort.

"Without opposition, this multitude arrived at the doors of the palace. As for the soldiers of the guard, some retreated in fear, and others in terror laid down their arms. The mob climbed up by ladders and entered the first hall, the halberdiers not firing the swivel-guns that had been provided, although the governor had commanded them to do so. [The governor] attempted to discharge his gun at a citizen standing near and it missed fore. Then the governor drew his saber and wounded the citizen. The latter and with him all the rest at once attacked the governor. They broke his right arm, and a blow on his head from a saber caused him to fall like one dead."

The governor's son who tried to intervene was likewise killed that night.

That is the story as narrated by an eyewitness in a primary source account. But when Antonio Ma. Regidor asked Hidalgo to paint this scene from history, his imagination wandered and "the crowd" was depicted as a pack of furious religious identifiable by their distinctive habits, most prominent being Dominicans whom Felix knew in the University of Santo Tomas.

The Bustamante story spawned "La Loba Negra," a work once attributed to Fr. Jose Burgos, which was available in manuscript and translated from the original Spanish into English by the ex-Jesuit Hilario Lim. However, scholars had their doubts: the writing was bad, the Spanish far from elegant, there were historical inconsistencies in the narrative. Yet the story is intriguing. The black she-wolf murdered friars at night. She was the avenging widow of Bustamante.

This story inspired a play by Virginia R. Moreno, titled "Onyx Wolf," which won third prize in the Cultural Center of the Philippines' literary contest of 1969-1970. Before the play was published in 1980 and even before it was staged in 1971, "Onyx Wolf" became a landmark ballet by Alice Reyes, "Itim Asu." It has also been made into an opera by Francisco Feliciano.

"La Loba Negra" was not by Burgos but by Jose E. Marco of Negros Island, whose forgeries were so successful that aside from "La Loba Negra" he created Kalantiaw, who in 1433 gave Philippine history an ancient set of laws predating the Spanish conquest.

Was Marco an evil genius? Or maybe it was all misplaced nationalism?

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu.

Samu't Sari

Cooperative whips OFW families in savings line

by JEREMAIAH M. OPINIANO
WWW.OFWJOURNALISM.NET

LOS BANOS, LAGUNA (OFW Journalism Consortium)–A TWO-STOREY town hall here is a reminder that political will, when wield, gets results.

For instance, whenever fish traders like Clarita Quisel walk by the hall, she automatically reaches for her pocket to rub coins and bills.

Under a low-savings rate regime, the town hall's savings and loan association is effective in "forcing" families of overseas Filipino workers, like Quisel's, to save.

The local government's Kawayanan Bayanihan Multi-purpose Cooperative has uncanny methods for doing so.

One is delivering to the member a letter reminding the weekly deposit of P20 (nearly half a dollar) was not made the past Sunday. The letter also asks the member to pay a P30 penalty.

If the member misses another deposit, a promissory note is sent with the message: "If you fail to deposit, the local police will give you a subpoena."

Such method, while too direct for some, marks the Kawayanan Cooperative's success.

As of this writing, Kawayanan has total resources worth P3.42 million, with some P3.4 million loaned to members. Existing deposits of the cooperative amounted to P2.6 million (US$63,179).

But more than deposits, loan repayment has always been Kawayanan's frequent challenge, according to the group.

Yet since only families from Malinta village are the only eligible members, issues surrounding non-paying members "are easily addressed," the group's report said.

Kawayanan's the most successful Bayanihan Savings Replication Project, said Darrell Dizon of the Department of Interior and Local Government, referring to his agency's former project that formed the Kawayanan.

Aside from families like Quisel's, Kawayanan's members are fishers, fish vendors, flower growers, laundrywomen, domestic workers for families in other villages, employees of the University of the Philippines-Los Baños, sari-sari store owners, and former OFWs.

Some 80 to 90 percent of members are women, said Kawayanan president Ricardo Bagnes, himself a former Saudi Arabia-based accountant during the 1980s.

Sunday

EVERY Sunday, Quisel joins a line snaking from the Kawayanan office inside the town hall.

The room was crowded with farmers and fisherfolks, all clutching yellow passbooks with enclosed bills and coins. There were two collectors getting each depositor's cash and passbooks.

After five minutes of waiting for her turn, Quisel extends a P20 bill to the collector, a woman behind a desk.

Before the collector could say anything, Quisel says: "P20 for this week. That okay with you?"

That's the minimum weekly deposit of the cooperative, explains Bagnes, understanding that most of the fishing village's 5,000 residents belong to the middle- and low-income groups.

The collector nods, takes Quisel's bill, and gives her a receipt as proof of deposit. She writes the deposited amount in a yellow passbook bearing Quisel's name and places it inside a wicker canister.

The minimum amount to save weekly makes the habit "manageable" to do, say former domestic workers Arsenia and Perlita Bacorro.

Still, a member must appear before the collector just to say s/he can't put some savings for the week.

Arsenia said the member then promises the collector she'll increase her deposit the following week.

These are also recorded in the passbook.

Hence, the subpoena is issued only after giving the member a lead time of about three weeks.

Bagnes, also Malinta's newly-elected village chair, told the OFW Journalism Consortium that only five percent of its 670 members receive a subpoena.

"Nobody has been jailed for non-repayment," Bagnes said.

Now, Kawayanan members race to reach a P5,000 plateau that will enable them to loan double that amount.

The loan bears a 2-percent interest rate and must be paid every month.

Quisel, the Bacorros, and OFW wife Yolanda Gayaban browse their passbooks and compare the amounts they've saved.

With four kids in tow, Arsenia Bacorro has some P4,200 saved, while those of distant cousin Perlita, still single, was higher: P7,931.

Gayaban admits losing profit from her house-to-house tocino (sweetened pork) retail business, but saving some from the remittances of her signboard painter-husband in Saudi Arabia, as well as from her own, led her to build up some P11,000 in the cooperative.

"You have three kids and P11,000 saved. I have six kids and some P3,000," Quisel tells Gayaban.

"At least, I saved something," she tells herself.

Solidarity

ASIDE from the cash loan, members of Kawayanan also could borrow rice every week and meat every two weeks, or for emergency hospitalization.

They could also buy produce at the cooperative's mini-grocery at a discount as well as a chance to win groceries in weekly raffles after the weekly meeting.

During a meeting December 10, a religious leader stood up, opened a Bible, and read lines about saving money.

The wicker canister was already three-fourths full of passbooks.

Gayaban thinks Bagnes's leadership is instrumental in the success of their group.

Bagnes, however, demurred, saying bayanihan, not transparency, is the secret to the cooperative's growth.

It is, he claims, a trait since the Kawayanan was still an unregistered self-help group called the Kawayanan Bayanihan Savings Center.

Then under the BSRP of DILG, the center held lectures on saving.

When the deposits grew to P500,000 by May 2005, Kawayanan registered with the Cooperative Development Authority on June 1 that same year.

After getting some training from CDA, Kawayanan started to issue passbooks to record members' savings and repaid loans.

The flexibility of the cooperative's rules, he added, has also helped members especially since they spend for daily needs.

"While we have increased patience for them," Bagnes adds, "members follow our rules".

This village-wide empathy helped Quisel and her fellow members who have dependents working abroad.

"Saving has become habitual for me, and Kawayanan continues to grow as a result of each other's trust," Quisel said.

Individually, former illegal recruitment victim Perlita Bacorro has been challenged while selling kerosene daily: "You have to work hard just to place a deposit in Kawayanan."

Still, there were new members during the meeting, as pointed out by Quisel.

And as like the week before, a raffle was held after the meeting, with processed meat, canned goods, and rice as prizes.

Quisel did not win any that night.

But as she stepped out of the town hall, she is reminded of something.

"I have to place my deposit next week."

OFWs to be taught how to use Friendster, Facebook

MANILA, Philippines—Friendster and Facebook are not only for the young looking for new friends.

Filipino workers abroad now have the chance to learn how to use these popular social networking tools to communicate with their friends and loved ones back home, according to Blas F. Ople Policy Center president Susan Ople.

Ople said that with the recent expansion of Tulay (Bridge), a special training program on technology implemented by the center in partnership with the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) and Microsoft Philippines, overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) would be introduced to blogging and social utility tools in cyberspace.

"One of the main problems encountered by OFWs is the lack of communication between them and their families," OWWA official Albert Valenciano said.

Valenciano pointed out that most of the four million Filipino workers overseas often experienced homesickness.

"Since the young members of their families are usually into Friendster and Facebook, it would be very useful for them to learn about these tools so the OFWs could connect with their loved ones better," Ople said.

Microsoft Philippines last week presented to the Blas F. Ople Policy Center P25 million in cash and P1.3 million worth of software for its expanded Tulay program.

The program expansion would enable the construction of 10 more Community Technology Learning Centers (CTLCs) in the Philippines, wherein OFWs and their families could learn useful computer programs.

Ople said the 10 new Tulay centers would be constructed in the cities of Baguio, Tacloban, Calamba, Koronadal, Tuguegarao, Davao, San Fernando, Butuan and Calapan. A facility in Maguindanao province would also be erected in 2008.

Ople added that a new Tulay center would also be put up in Taipei, while additional computers and software would be given to the CTLC in Hong Kong. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

CHRISTENING

Belated happy Christening to Eduard Li Manahan III who was baptized Sept. 20, 2008, at the San Vicente Church, Saipan. Greetings come from his Ninongs, from left, Jun Lapeceros, Ric Talabucon, his dad Eduard Jr., Bobby Gabao, Mike Timbal, Nestor Corotan, Joseph Domingo and Rommel Salavaria.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BELATED GREETINGS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Belated happy birthday greetings to Lourdes Galang who celebrated her birthday last Sept. 30, 2008, at her residence in Finasisu, Saipan. Greetings come from her friends in Kannat Tabla, Saipan.

YoungStyle

Children anxious about bad economy

By BRIGID SCHULTE
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—Kerri Reddick-Morgan lives a solidly middle-class life. She has a master's degree, a good job as a marketing director for a nonprofit group and rents a nice townhouse in Woodbridge, Va. But as major investment banks and markets around the world have come unglued, she has had to reassure her anxious children that their world has not.

Ten-year-old Kamar is so worried that another Great Depression is coming he thinks he might not have kids when he grows up, in case he can't find a job.

Eighteen-year-old Andrew has become so stressed out about paying for college next year that he has started referring to it as "the C-word."

And hearing about failing banks, 12-year-old Kaise wondered whether her babysitting money would disappear from her savings account. Time to explain FDIC insurance, Reddick-Morgan said.

"The only calming thing I could do was to tell her, `You don't have over $100,000 in your bank account, so your money is fine,' " she said. "That is not a conversation I thought I would ever be having with my 12-year-old."

Amid free-falling stocks, shrinking retirement and college savings plans and skyrocketing foreclosures, it's not just adults who have been seized with uncertainty recently.

A survey of 500 U.S. teenagers released Friday found that almost 70 percent feared an "immediate negative impact" on the security of their families. "That's a gigantic figure," said Michael Cohen, a research psychologist who runs the opinion research firm that conducted the poll. "There's anxiety about this. And the anxiety is not just for the society at large, but for me and my family. I was quite taken aback by the scope of that fear. "

And unless parents, who might be fearful, too, can help restore a child's sense of security, many might wind up with headaches or stomachaches or begin acting out or losing interest in school, child psychologists say.

For some children, the anxiety is far more overwhelming.

Alexandria, Va., resident Adelfa Ramirez cleans homes, and her husband is a carpenter. Business for both has dropped dramatically as the families who hire them have cut spending. The family is about to lose its home to foreclosure. Her 15-year-old, Eduardo, has offered to forgo his allergy medication and get a job.

"For him, $6 or $7 an hour seems like a lot. But it's nothing," Ramirez said in Spanish. "He wants to work to help us, but I told him: `No. Not yet.' For me, it's far more important that he prepare himself intellectually so that he can go to college."

But even children not in crisis "pick up the mood, the tension, the anxiety—there are no secrets in families," said Stanley Greenspan, professor of child psychiatry and pediatrics at George Washington University, who has started to see the economic anxiety show up in his Washington practice. "Younger kids tend to be all-or-nothing thinkers. So a healthy 8-year-old is more likely to worry in a more extreme way than an adult."

That's certainly true of Kamar, who told his mother that he was scared everyone would run out of money, then no one would have food. And if they needed money, he said, he could sell his iPod.

THE WASHINGTON POST

"I had no idea they were thinking like this," Kerri Reddick-Morgan, of Woodbridge, Va., says of economic fears her children have raised. With her here are Kamar (left), 10, and Kaise, 12.

Reddick-Morgan shook her head. "I had no idea they were thinking like this," she said.

Greenspan, author of "The Secure Child," said that at times like these, parents need to spend more time with their children. They need to ask their children how much they know about what's going on, then answer questions in an age-appropriate way. They need to find ways for their children to help others. "If a child is active in helping make things better, there's less worry," Greenspan said.

No matter the financial situation, never lie to children, said Jerilyn Ross, director of the Ross Center for Anxiety and Related Disorders in Washington. One patient had just lost her job but was too ashamed to tell her two teenage daughters. So when one daughter kept bugging her to buy new clothes and she refused, the girl felt angry and thought her mother was being unreasonable. "When the mom finally sat down and told her she couldn't afford the clothes because she'd lost her job, the daughter felt guilty, then wanted to help the mother," Ross said.

Shawn McLaughlin, who runs a small investment firm in Alexandria, said the crisis has kept him at work until 10 most nights and away from his four children, ages 2 to 8. "They're listening when I listen to the news, and they ask what does it mean. I use it as a chance to explain that this was all about greed," he said. "They're picking up on some of the despair. But I also say that better days are ahead. I talk about how we've been tested before as a country. I explain about Pearl Harbor and how we always come out the other end far stronger and far wiser."

Likewise, Reddick-Morgan has used the crisis to reinforce the importance of faith, family and education.

"The only thing that matters is who you are and how you treat people," she told them. "Money. All these material things. You can't take it with you. You have to believe that no matter what happens, God is going to take care of us."

THE WASHINGTON POST

The Coral Reef display in the National Museum of Natural History's new Sant Ocean Hall, is an enormous aquarium, stocked with live fish and growing corals. The new permanent exhibition space in Washington is dedicated to all things ocean-y.

Cool stuff

By MICHAEL O'SULLIVAN
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

There's plenty to see at the National Museum of Natural History's new Sant Ocean Hall in Washington. A set of giant prehistoric shark jaws. A model of a real, 45-foot-long North Atlantic right whale named Phoenix. Kid-friendly exhibits are marked with a picture of her. Look for it. Here's another handful of stops we think you shouldn't miss.

Dumbo Octopus. You've got to love the name, if not the creature. And with a pair of earlike flippers that make it look like Disney's famous flying elephant, what's not to love? Oh, and it also looks like it's wearing a skirt. Location in Ocean Hall: Open Ocean.

Sargassum Scavenger Hunt. Find the shrimps, crabs and anemones hiding in this jar of free-floating seaweed. Location: Open Ocean.

What's Under Your Beach Blanket? This display reveals that the sand is crawling with animals you can't see. One of them is called the peanut worm. Kind of gross, kind of awesome. Location: Shores and Shallows.

Adelie Penguin. Fans of "Happy Feet" will want to check out what has to be the cutest stuffed penguin ever. Location: The Poles.

Water World at the Smithsonian

By MICHAEL O'SULLIVAN
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—If you've seen one ocean, you've seen them all.

Seriously.

That's just one of the big ideas you might take away from the Sant Ocean Hall, the National Museum of Natural History's new permanent exhibition space dedicated to all things, er, ocean-y. The Atlantic? The Pacific? Same ocean, different neighborhood.

See, scientists today think about all those oceans and seas as one big body of water, collected into several puddles, or basins, around the world.

Hundreds of millions of years ago, it really was one big ocean. This was back when the individual continents that we know today (Asia, North America, etc.) were still part of a single, giant landmass, a supercontinent called Pangea (pronounced pan-GEE-uh). The ancient ocean surrounding all that? It was called Panthalassa (pronounced PAN-thuh-LASS-uh). Both names come from the Greek language. Pangea means "all earth." Panthalassa, "all seas." You'll learn about this and cool other ocean facts in "Science on a Sphere," a video projected onto a globe-shaped screen.

If you lived in the ocean, would you prefer the icy waters of Antarctica or a tropical coral reef? You'll find plenty here to help you make up your mind, including an exhibit dedicated to life at the north and south poles.

THE WASHINGTON POST

The main exhibit floor at the National Museum of Natural History's new Sant Ocean Hall in Washington is anchored by a 45-foot-long model of a North Atlantic right whale (at rear) named Phoenix that hangs from the ceiling.

OCEAN FACT

(c) 2008, The Washington Post

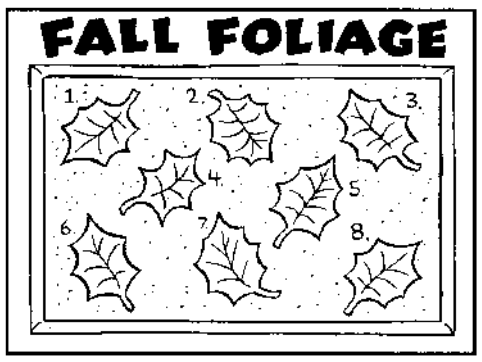
The Mariana Trench in the Pacific Ocean is the deepest location on Earth, at nearly seven miles below sea level.

The Coral Reef display is an enormous aquarium, stocked with live fish and growing corals. But life in the water doesn't just change from climate to climate. It also changes the deeper you go—and the darker it gets. Scientists divide the ocean into three very different layers: the sunlit zone near the surface, where you can still see daylight; the murkier twilight zone, where it's halfway between light and dark; and the deep ocean, where the sun never shines.

To make it easy to understand how deep each layer goes, the museum uses a handy yardstick: the Washington Monument. The sunlit zone? It's one monument deep. The twilight zone is four. The deep ocean? That extends for 17 monuments. We know less about that part of the ocean than we do about outer space.

In the Ocean Hall you'll find examples of life at each of these three levels. From giant squids to tiny algae. From a seagull to a coelacanth (pronounced SEE-la-canth), and from the flintiest of fossils to the jiggliest of jellyfish. That's the other big message of the Ocean Hall: There's a world of water out there that's wider and more wonderful than anything you ever imagined. Go explore.

FALL FOLIAGE



SEE IF YOU CAN "RAKE IN" the two leaves on the bulletin board above that are exactly alike.

Answer: Leaves 1 and 8.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

LET'S FIND THE ANIMALS!

T	D	R	A	P	O	E	L	G	A	E	M	R	C	
N	A	N	A	C	O	N	D	A	H	E	U	A	A	
A	L	C	A	R	D	I	N	A	L	L	S	T	R	
H	L	O	M	L	B	D	T	B	O	L	T	T	I	
P	I	U	A	N	T	E	L	O	P	E	A	L	B	
E	R	G	L	K	E	E	Z	A	P	Z	N	E	O	
L	O	A	L	H	U	R	H	R	I	A	G	R	U	
E	G	R	C	A	M	E	L	S	H	G	O	A	T	

A BETCHA PUZZLE! Place an L-shaped piece of paper on the table and challenge your friends to cut it into four equal pieces, all the same size and shape. The solution is shown in figure 2

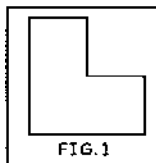


FIG. 1

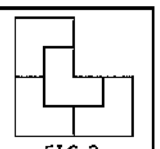


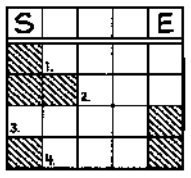
FIG. 2

Hidden in the above diagram are the names of 21 species of animals. They can be found by reading up or down, side to side, or diagonally. Letters can be used more than once. Listed below are the names you're looking for:

Anaconda	Cougar	Hippo
Antelope	Deer	Leopard
Boar	Eagle	Llama
Camel	Elephant	Mustang
Cardinal	Gazelle	Rattler
Caribou	Goat	Shetland
Cheetah	Gorilla	Zebra

FIND-A-WORD! On the top line is our mystery word. You need to fill in the missing letters. Clue words (smaller words contained in letter-by-letter order within the mystery word) are defined below.

1. Weight of a container. 2. To be.
3. Outstanding performer. 4. A sailor.



Answers: 1. Tare. 2. Are. 3. Star. 4. Tar. Mystery word: Stare.

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Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

■ Those who speak English call it a French kiss, but those who speak French call it an English kiss.

■ It was Roman statesman Cato the Elder who made the following sage observation: "After I'm dead I would rather have people ask why I have no monument than why I have one."

■ At 140,000 square miles, the Papahanaumokuakea Marine National Monument, located (unsurprisingly) in Hawaii, is larger than all the other U.S. national parks put together.

■ Have you ever met an oligochaetelogist? You have if you've ever been introduced to someone who studies earthworms.

■ If you could cut out a piece of a pulsar the size of a standard baseball and weigh it, it would be heavier than the Empire State Building.

■ The largest diamond ever found was discovered in 1905 and weighed 3,106 karats, or more than 1 1/3 pounds, in the rough. After the Cullinan diamond changed hands several times, King Edward VII of England received it as a gift for his birthday. When he finally had the stone cut, the enormous diamond yielded 96 small gems and nine large ones, including the 530-karat Great Star of Africa.

■ It was once the custom among the Danakil tribe of Ethiopia to mark a man's grave with one stone for each man he had killed during his lifetime.

■ If you're not a history buff, you might be surprised to learn that during the American Revolutionary War, more residents of the Colonies fought on the side of the British than on the side of the revolutionaries.

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "If a woman has to choose between catching a fly ball and saving an infant's life, she will choose to save the infant's life without even considering if there are men on base."—Dave Barry

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MAGIC MAZE ● BORN IN THE 17th CENTURY

Y	Q	N	K	H	E	B	Y	V	S	P	R	M	J	H
E	B	Y	V	T	Q	O	L	I	G	D	E	B	Y	W
T	R	P	M	K	I	F	D	B	Y	W	M	U	S	T
H	Q	O	M	K	R	I	F	D	B	Z	B	E	L	F
X	C	L	W	K	C	E	E	B	E	I	R	U	E	I
U	A	A	A	N	K	N	E	R	W	I	A	S	D	W
Q	S	O	B	C	O	N	O	M	A	R	N	N	N	S
L	S	J	O	H	S	T	N	T	R	F	D	D	A	J
C	I	L	A	Y	W	A	L	E	W	E	T	V	H	T
S	N	Q	P	N	L	O	P	I	P	E	V	K	I	H
F	I	D	L	A	V	I	V	E	M	W	N	C	B	Z

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Cassini	Milton	Rembrandt	Voltaire
Handel	Newton	Riebeeck	W. Penn
J. Swift	Pascal	Vermeer	Wren
Locke	Perrault	Vivaldi	

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	+		÷		5
x		÷		x	
	−		x		25
−		+		+	
	+		÷		2
3		10		16	

1 2 3 5 5 6 7 8 9

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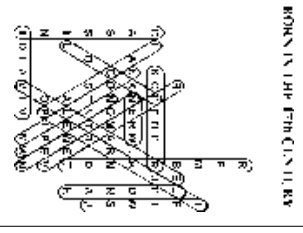
MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



GO FIGURE ANSWER

3		10		16	
5	+	7	÷	6	2
−		+		+	
8	−	3	x	5	25
x		÷		x	
1	+	9	÷	2	5

Pukey cat

Q: My cat pukes all the time. Well, not constantly, but at least once a day "Jimmy" will cough up part of his dinner. Afterward he seems perfectly fine. Why does this happen?—Bill T., via e-mail

A: Cats do vomit a bit more than what we might consider normal for us. However, puking every day indicates a possible problem. Even though Jimmy seems fine after each episode, take him to the veterinarian right away to be checked out.

The vet will ask you if you noticed anything in the vomit—yes, you have to look—particularly blood, undigested food, fur or foreign objects. He or she may ask you to bring a sample along (or maybe not—ask when you call). You'll be asked to describe Jimmy's behavior before and after the vomiting episode, and his general behavior during the day.

Cats are very good at hiding illness. That's why owners need to look for out-of-the-ordinary behavior. Even something as simple as an otherwise friendly cat that suddenly runs and hides. Or a cat that suddenly meows all the time (or stops meowing completely). Or changes in the appearance of its coat.

Even if Jimmy's health checks out, keep a close eye on him. Those puke sessions indicate something is up. He may not be digesting his food well—if he only eats dry food, try alternating a couple times a week with fresh steamed chicken or shrimp. Make sure he has plenty of water at all times—cats will drink when they're thirsty, but won't overindulge.

If you see clumps of his fur in the vomit, and/or Jimmy has a lot of "hairball" wheezing sessions, start brushing out his coat daily to reduce the amount of fur Jimmy picks up during his self-cleaning sessions.

Send your tips, questions and comments to Paws Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or e-mail them to pawscorner@hotmail.com.

Paw's corner by Sam Mazzotta

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Kids will stick with these chores

Put stuff on a stick, and kids are bound to like it. Think ice cream, candy and colorful pinwheels. So why not chores on a stick?

"Call it a gimmick, but if it works, I say go for it," says my friend, Lisa, a busy single working mom of a 7-year-old daughter and 5-year-old son. She was definitely determined to entice the kids to get into the chore thing this fall without the whining and the all-too-frequent response of "It's not mine, so why do I have to pick it up?" Sound familiar?

Her "chores on a stick" germinated out of an idea at an early-childhood class she attended in her community. Write up little jobs that need to be done on one end of a wooden craft stick, decorate the other end with cut-out paper flower blooms and stand them upright in tin can to look like a bouquet. When it's time to get the blooming chores done around the house, say to the kids, "Pick a stick!" Whatever is written on the stick becomes the child's responsibility.

Since kids generally get overwhelmed with a huge chore like "clean up your room", Lisa has been mindful to break up big jobs into smaller tasks. The can of chores labeled "BEDROOM" has several sticks with specific things printed on each one that are to be completed in the bedroom over a period of a few days, one stick at a time. For example, sticks may say: "Put away dolls on the shelf," "Put shoes and boots in the closet," "Put toys in bins." Other cans might be labeled, "PLAYROOM" or "BACKYARD" with specific chores on each stick.

Pick up some craft sticks, decorate them if you wish, label with chores, toss them in a recycled soup can and try out this strategy in your home. "Pick a Stick" is like a game, so your young kids will no doubt like the novelty of it at first, but even more, they'll feel a sense of accomplishment as they do their part to keep the home organized and humming this fall.

Grandparent "Pick a Stick" Tip: When the grandkids come for a visit, fill a can with craft sticks with something to do together outdoors such as "Watch a soccer game at local park," "See the ducks at the pond" or "Walk to the library," and enjoy doing the chosen activity together.

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning television series "Donna's Day" airs on public television nationwide. Visit www.donnasday.com to find out when it airs on your local PBS station and to sign up for Donna's e-newsletter.

Donna's Day Creative family fun by Donna Erickson

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Distributed by King Features Synd.

Life & Style

Jolie apparently breastfeeding on W cover

We've already seen the baby pictures—now see the photo of Angelina Jolie apparently breastfeeding on the cover of W magazine.

Jolie appears on the cover of the W's November issue in a sleeveless top, which has been opened to reveal part of her left breast and a tiny hand ostensibly belonging to one of her twins, Knox Leon and Vivienne Marcheline, who were born in July.

The black-and-white photo shows Jolie smiling, her long brown hair cascading over her shoulder. The cover headline promises exclusive "private photos" of the 33-year-old actress by her partner Brad Pitt.

Jolie last caused a stir when she wore a white nursing bra underneath her tank top on the cover of People magazine after she and Pitt welcomed daughter Shiloh, now 2 years old.

Another breast-feeding cover that got people talking was in the summer of 2006, when Babytalk magazine published a photo of a baby and part of a woman's breast in profile. The magazine conducted a poll of more than 4,000 readers; a quarter of responses were negative, finding the photo inappropriate.

La Leche League International, the world's oldest breast-feeding support organization, applauds Jolie's apparent decision to be photographed nursing.

"Breast-feeding in public reveals a whole lot less than what has been revealed on the red carpet. ... I think we do need more role models like Angelina Jolie willing to be photographed and say, `Hey look, it can be done, it oughta be done,'" said La Leche spokeswoman Jane Crouse.

Besides Shiloh and the twins, Pitt and Jolie also are parents to three adopted children: Maddox, 7, from Cambodia; Pax, 4, from Vietnam; Zahara, 3, from Ethiopia.

Exclusive photos of the Jolie-Pitt clan have fetched millions of dollars. Last summer, People magazine and the British tabloid Hello! paid $14 million in a joint deal to publish the first shots of the family with newborn Knox and Vivienne. Jolie and Pitt allowed such access in exchange for a donation to charity.

AP

Actor Brad Pitt and actress Angelina Jolie attend a New York Film Festival screening of "Changeling" at the Ziegfeld Theatre on Saturday, Oct. 4, 2008 in New York.

Jolie, who won a supporting actress Academy Award for 1999's "Girl, Interrupted," has drawn Oscar buzz for Clint Eastwood's missing-child drama "Changeling," slated for release Oct. 24.

Pitt portrays a fitness club dimwit in Joel and Ethan Coen's recent comedy "Burn After Reading," co-starring George Clooney, John Malkovich and Frances McDormand. ***(AP)***

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The Express

Friday		4:00	7:10	9:45
Saturday	1:15	4:00	7:10	9:45
Sunday	1:15	4:00	7:10	
Mon and Tue		4:00	7:10	

Dennis Quaid, Rob Brown
Drama, Biopic • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
The true story of Ernie Davis, two-time All-American running back for Syracuse University who led his team to the national championship in 1960. In 1961, he became the first black man to win the Heisman Trophy. Later that year, he was the first pick in the NFL draft. But Davis never got the chance to play professional football, he was diagnosed with leukemia during the summer of 1962 and died nearly a year later.

Body of Lies

Friday		4:30	7:20	9:55
Saturday	1:25	4:30	7:20	9:55
Sunday	1:25	4:30	7:20	
Mon and Tue		4:30	7:20	

Leonardo DiCaprio, Russel Crowe
Thriller, Adaptation • Rated R

Synopsis
Roger Ferris is the best man U.S. Intelligence has on the ground, in places where human life is worth no more than the information it can get you. In operations that take him around the globe, Ferris' next breath often depends on the voice at the other end of a secure phone line—CIA veteran Ed Hoffman. Strategizing from a laptop in the suburbs, Hoffman is on the trail of an emerging terrorist leader who has orchestrated a campaign of bombings while eluding the most sophisticated intelligence network in the world.

Quarantine

Friday		4:15	7:15	9:50
Saturday	1:10	4:15	7:15	9:50
Sunday	1:10	4:15	7:15	
Mon and Tue		4:15	7:15	

Jennifer Carpenter, Jay Hernandez
Thriller, Horror • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
For a reality TV show about people who work while the rest of the world is asleep, reporter Angela Vidal and her cameraman, Scott, are assigned to cover a night shift with a pair of firemen at a Los Angeles fire station. After an uneventful evening, a 911 distress call in the middle of the night takes them to a small apartment building downtown. Police officers are already on the scene in response to bloodcurdling screams coming from an apartment on the third floor. Having stumbled onto a breaking story, Angela and Scott are determined to get it all on tape.

★ ★ ★

Blindness

Friday		4:25	7:30	10:00
Saturday	1:30	4:25	7:30	10:00
Sunday	1:30	4:25	7:30	
Mon and Tue		4:25	7:30	

Julianne Moore, Mark Ruffalo
Drama, Thriller • Rated R

Beverly Hills Chihuahua

Friday		4:05	7:00	9:30
Saturday	1:00	4:05	7:00	9:30
Sunday	1:00	4:05	7:00	
Mon and Tue		4:05	7:00	

Drew Barrymore (v), Andy Garcia (v)
Comedy, Adventure • Rated PG

House Bunny

Friday		4:10	7:25	9:40
Saturday	1:20	4:10	7:25	9:40
Sunday	1:20	4:10	7:25	
Mon and Tue		4:10	7:25	

Ana Faris, Katharine McPhee
Comedy • Rated PG 13

Eagle Eye

Friday		4:20	7:05	9:35
Saturday	1:05	4:20	7:05	9:35
Sunday	1:05	4:20	7:05	
Mon and Tue		4:20	7:05	

Shia LaBeouf, Michelle Monaghan
Drama • Rated PG 13

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CNN to give $100,000 to 'hero' on holiday special

NEW YORK (AP)—A woman who moved to Louisiana to help Hurricane Katrina survivors, a marathon runner who gets homeless people on their feet and several community organizers will be honored by CNN in its second Thanksgiving night "heroes" special.

The awards show, unusual for a cable news network, will give $100,000 to one of 10 individuals selected by viewers through a vote on the CNN Web site.

The special is an attempt to honor people who may not make the news, but are doing things to help others, said Jim Walton, president of CNN Worldwide. There were more than 10,000 nominations for potential "heroes," he said.

Walton said there were discussions within CNN last year before the first "heroes" special over whether it was the right thing for a news organization to do. He said he heard an outpouring of pride from CNN employees at the way it was pulled off.

"I was really kind of skeptical about this project," said Anderson Cooper, who will host the program Nov. 27 from the Kodak Theatre in Hollywood. "I was wondering how it would work. I thought it would seem cheesy in some way. I was actually blown away by last year's special; I found it very moving."

A panel that included Desmond Tutu, Jane Goodall, Deepak Chopra, Richard Branson, Magic Johnson and George Lopez selected the 10 finalists.

CNN's nominees this year:

■ Anne Mahlum, a marathon runner from Philadelphia who started the "Back on My Feet" program that gets homeless people running.

■ Tad Agoglia from Oklahoma, founder of First Rescue Team of America, which goes into disaster sites and helps clean up in the immediate aftermath.

■ Liz McCartney, who moved from Washington to St. Bernard Parish east of New Orleans to help Hurricane Katrina victims rebuild.

■ Maria Da Silva, a Los Angeles nanny who founded and finances the Jacaranda School for AIDS orphans in her native Malawi.

■ Viola Vaughn, a Detroit native who retired to Senegal and whose tutoring of her grandchildren led to a program providing education for many other girls.

■ Maria Ruiz, of El Paso, Texas, who regularly crosses the border to provide help to poor children in Juarez, Mexico.

■ Yohannes Gebregeorgis, who returned from the United States to his native Ethiopia to start a program offering library books to children.

■ Phymean Noun, a Cambodian genocide survivor who lives in Toronto and has opened schools and provided health services to children in her native country.

■ Carolyn LeCroy, a former prison inmate from Norfolk, Va., who started The Messages Project, which films messages from prison inmates to their families.

■ David Puckett, a Savannah, Ga., man who provides prosthetics and other medical equipment to poor people in Mexico.

Brinkley to ex: Shield kids from '20/20' interview

GARDEN CITY, N.Y. (AP)—The highly public divorce battle between Christie Brinkley and her ex-husband may be settled, but the couple's bitter dispute is heating up again.

Brinkley asked a Suffolk County court to shield the couple's two children from a televised interview, scheduled to air Friday on ABC, in which Peter Cook explains his affair with a teenager and his Internet porn proclivities.

But a judge on Thursday denied her request to cancel Cook's weekend visitation with the children, his lawyer Jim Winkler told Newsday. Winkler said the order was unnecessary and that Cook had no intention of exposing the children to the Barbara Walters interview on "20/20."

Brinkley

Brinkley lawyer Robert Stephan Cohen did not immediately return a call seeking confirmation. Cohen filed papers on Wednesday seeking a temporary restraining order and a post-judgment order, saying in a statement: "His parenting has to be away from his home and he can't expose them to the `20/20' broadcast."

Judge orders Redmond O'Neal into drug detox

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A judge has ordered the 23-year-old son of actor Ryan O'Neal back to rehab weeks after he and his father were arrested on suspicion of drug possession.

Redmond O'Neal appeared in a Malibu courtroom Wednesday on a probation violation for a previous drug conviction.

Judge Scott Millington ordered O'Neal into a two-week detox program after he admitted he had relapsed, court records show.

O'Neal

He was sentenced to three years' probation in June after pleading guilty to heroin and methamphetamine possession.

Neither O'Neal nor his father have been charged after being arrested Sept. 17 on suspicion of possessing methamphetamine. Deputies searched the O'Neals' home in Malibu as part of Redmond's probation and found drugs on him and in Ryan O'Neal's living area.

Ryan O'Neal's attorney has denied that any of the drugs belonged to the actor.

Even Britney wonders what she was thinking

In this Sept. 7, 2008 file photo, Britney Spears is seen at the 2008 MTV Video Music Awards held at Paramount Pictures Studio Lot in Los Angeles.

AP

NEW YORK (AP)—If you're wondering what was going through Britney Spears' head during her erratic era, you are not alone—so does she.

"I sit there and I look back and I'm like, 'I'm a smart person. What the hell was I thinking?'" Spears said in an interview to air on MTV on Nov. 30, two days before the release of her new album. "I've been through a lot in the past two or three years, and there's a lot that people don't know."

The 90-minute special, "Britney: For The Record," was executive-produced by Spears' manager Larry Rudolph. It features behind-the-scenes footage of the singer and her talking about her life over the past two years.

She's got a lot to talk about: In that time span, she has gotten divorced, been through a custody battle, gone to rehab, had very public meltdowns and had one memorably bad performance at the MTV Video Music Awards.

Now on the comeback trail, Spears is releasing her sixth album, "Circus," on Dec. 2, her 27th birthday.

Spears says she's hoping this TV special will "set the record straight" about her life.

Daddy Yankee takes on new role

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)—Tom Brokaw, Jim Lehrer, Gwen Ifill—and Daddy Yankee? The 31-year-old reggaeton star is taking a turn as moderator of a debate Thursday among candidates for governor of Puerto Rico in an effort to lure young voters to the polls on Nov. 4.

The artist, whose real name is Ramon Ayala, will be one of three moderators at the debate under the slogan "Vota o quedate calla'o"—"Vote or keep your mouth shut." A local journalist and a television personality will join him

Ayala

Best known for his song "Gasolina," Daddy Yankee has already made a plunge into national politics by endorsing Sen. John McCain for president, whom he described as "a fighter for the Hispanic community."

But he has said he is not biased toward any of the four island candidates.

"I am going to be an instrument to deliver the people's questions," he told the newspaper Primera Hora.

His selection by sponsors including the local Univision network has gotten mixed reviews.

A group of young people burned Daddy Yankee albums Thursday outside the convention center hosting the debate. One, Jose Perez, said the artist is being used as "bait" in a system that otherwise neglects young people.

Gov. Anibal Acevedo Vila is facing three challengers in the debate. Some of the questions were submitted through social-networking Web sites including Facebook and MySpace.

Lindsay Lohan wants deposition sealed

AP

In this Sept. 7, 2008 file photo, Lindsay Lohan arrives at the 2008 MTV Video Music Awards held at Paramount Pictures Studio Lot in Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Lindsay Lohan doesn't want to be on camera, at least not when she's giving a deposition.

Lawyers for Lohan filed a motion on Wednesday seeking a judge's order barring any filming of the actress' upcoming deposition in a case filed by gal pal Samantha Ronson.

She also doesn't want transcripts or other accounts of the deposition introduced into public records. The documents state Lohan is afraid videotaping the deposition will "unduly embarrass, oppress and burden her because of the private subject matter of the expected testimony and the virtual certainty that, unless access is significantly limited, the transcript and videotape of the deposition will be illegally exploited by the media."

Her attorneys cited a judge's order barring videotaped depositions in Britney Spears and Kevin Federline's recent custody dispute.

A judge is scheduled to consider Lohan's motion in November.

Civil depositions are not public records, but the motion states Lohan is afraid that some media outlets would try to steal copies of the tape if the questioning is filmed.

Ronson sued her former lawyers in May, claiming they failed to represent her adequately when she sued bloggers, including Perez Hilton. Ronson claimed the bloggers defamed her by writing that she had planted drugs in Lohan's car and was exploiting the actress to the paparazzi.

The celebrity DJ's lawsuit states that her then-attorneys didn't properly fight a motion by Perez Hilton, whose real name is Mario Lavandeira, to dismiss the lawsuit. A judge granted Lavandeira's motion and ordered Ronson to pay him nearly $85,000 in legal fees.

In court documents filed earlier this week, Ronson claimed her former lawyer, Martin Garbus, and a pair of law firms threatened to sue her over unpaid legal fees in the days before Lavandeira's dismissal motion came before a judge.

Fiance says cold feet may warm up a year from now

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I was engaged for 18 months to "Jerry," a man I wanted to marry. We become engaged after dating for six months, but we had known each other three years before becoming romantically involved.

A few weeks ago, Jerry announced that he wants to end our engagement because he is going through a "selfish period" in his life and wants to be able to go out without feeling guilty.

I believe Jerry is seeing someone else, but he is adamant that this is only for him—his chance to be independent. He said he wants me to give him a chance to possibly rekindle our relationship in a year. I don't know if I'm willing to do that. Any advice?

BROKENHEARTED IN PHOENIX

DEAR BROKENHEARTED: Yes. It appears your former fiance is commitment-phobic. Whether Jerry is seeing someone or not is beside the point. He wants to be free to look around, and if he can't "do any better" in a year he may "possibly" come back—or not. (Give him marks for honesty!)

My advice is to consider this romance a thing of the past. Use the next 12 months to do some serious looking around yourself. If by chance you're still available—and willing—when Jerry is "possibly" ready to rekindle the relationship, do so ONLY if he agrees to complete a course of couples counseling with you. Unless you do, this man will break your heart again.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am an 11-year-old girl. My mommy was diagnosed with MS a few months ago. I would like to help the hospital raise money to find a cure to fix her and others like her.

Ten percent of my bat mitzvah money is going to find a cure for MS. My sister says it's a stupid idea because if there was a cure they would have already found one. Do you think I'm doing the right thing?

WANTS TO FIX MOMMY

DEAR WANTS: You're doing a wise and wonderful thing. If the medical community thought the way your sister does, they would still be hitting people on the head with rocks in order to anesthetize them for surgery, and none of the miraculous medical advances of the last 100 years would have come about. The answer to diseases like your mother's lies in research—and research costs money. Please don't let yourself be intimidated. Your instincts are excellent.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Every three or four months I am invited to spend a night at my married daughter's home.

While I am sitting at the breakfast table having my morning cereal, her husband will walk in, fix his coffee and cereal, then take it back into the bedroom, leaving me alone. I mentioned it to my daughter. She said that's his routine. I think it's rude, and I don't feel like visiting anymore. I can have coffee alone in my own home. Any suggestions?

ONE UNHAPPY MOM

DEAR UNHAPPY MOM: Surely you aren't spending the night at your daughter's in order to be entertained by your son-in-law in the morning. Unless he avoids you in the evenings too, accept that he isn't a morning person and read the newspaper or turn on the news. But please don't pout. It's an unattractive habit.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

ELECTION DAY IS COMING UP, DAD. PEOPLE WANT TO KNOW WHERE YOU STAND ON THE ISSUES.
SUCH AS?
LATER BEDTIMES, EXPANDED TV PRIVILEGES, SHORTER SCHOOL WEEKS, AND LESS DISCIPLINE.
I'M AGAINST THEM ALL.
I SEE.
HOW'S YOUR IRA? PRETTY WELL FUNDED?
GO TO BED.

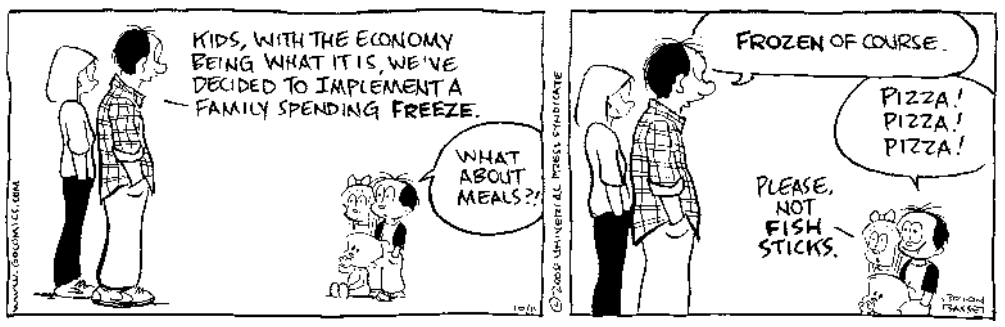
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

I WAS FEELING SO MANLY TODAY, THEN I HAD TO GO AND STUB MY TOE
...CRIED LIKE A BABY...
WANNA SEE MY BOO-BOO?
FROM MANLY TO SISSY, JUST LIKE THAT

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


KIDS, WITH THE ECONOMY BEING WHAT IT IS, WE'VE DECIDED TO IMPLEMENT A FAMILY SPENDING FREEZE.
WHAT ABOUT MEALS?!
FROZEN OF COURSE.
PIZZA! PIZZA! PIZZA!
PLEASE, NOT FISH STICKS.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

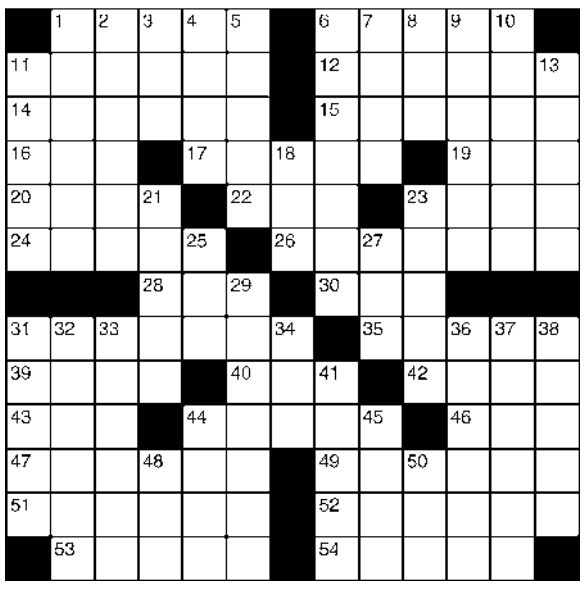
ACROSS
1 Inch along laterally
6 Blazing
11 Easy victor
12 Delays, as in time
14 Thingie
15 Expense account concern
16 "The Greatest"
17 City-related
19 401(k) alternative
20 Talent contest prop
22 Longing
23 MIT grad, prob.
24 Bo-Peep's charges
26 Perturbs
28 Mercury or Saturn
30 "Eureka!"
31 Laughed like a witch
35 Square dance group
39 Scandinavian city
40 High arcing shot
42 Mad Shakespearean king
43 Carnival city
44 Appointments
46 Judge Lance
47 Utensil
49 Squirm
51 Cause
52 Central parts
53 Church council
54 Makes into confetti

DOWN
1 Civil War battle site
2 Cut aid
3 Follow relentlessly
4 Stead
5 Contestant
6 Where King Zog ruled
7 Satyr's cousin
8 "— be a pleasure"
9 Saskatchewan's capital
10 Pep
11 Booties
13 Celebs
18 Foundation
21 Insurance ad lizard
23 Spam, often
25 Crony
27 That girl
29 Akin (to)
31 Welsh pooch
32 Chinese et al.
33 Doltish
34 Speck
36 Counter man?
37 Xenophobes, e.g.
38 Equine gaits
41 Suit
44 Erté's style
45 Trig function
48 Holster occupant
50 Definitive evidence

Solution time: 27 mins.

V	I	S	A	S	■	H	O	D	■	S	P	A
I	R	I	S	H	■	I	K	E	■	P	H	D
M	E	D	I	A	■	C	A	R	P	O	O	L
■	■	F	A	R	T	H	Y	■	I	O	N	F
A	R	C	■	P	O	I	■	F	U	R	O	R
T	H	A	T	■	R	E	A	L	M	■	■	■
M	O	R	R	I	S	■	L	A	P	P	E	D
■	■	■	A	■	O	N	G	■	S	O	L	O
O	S	A	G	E	■	O	E	R	■	O	F	T
R	A	N	I	■	B	O	R	E	A	L	■	■
C	U	E	C	A	R	D	■	S	O	C	K	S
A	N	N	■	M	I	L	■	N	U	I	T	■
S	A	T	■	P	O	E	■	N	E	E	D	Y

Yesterday's answer 10-11



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Michelle Trachtenberg, 23; Emily Deschanel, 32; Jane Krakowski, 40; Luke Perry, 42

Happy Birthday: Don't get ahead of yourself this year. A strong work ethic with hands-on nurturing will help you get where you want to go. A love connection may not turn out to be what you think. Don't let this turn of events cost you precious time and money. Be prepared to move on to better and bigger things. Your numbers are 5, 14, 18, 21, 30, 36, 44

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Secrets will be kept and force plays may be made. Dealing with medical, legal and financial concerns will lessen the stress in your life. You may have fewer options but your past experience will help you. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Make abrupt changes without giving anyone too much notice—the reactions you observe will help you make decisions for the future. The truth will be revealed about things you have been excluded from in the past. Regroup and make up for lost time. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Unexpected emotional matters will surface. You'll have to act fast so others can't question your plans. Keep things simple and don't stretch the truth. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Put time into getting ahead professionally and, before you know it, your cash flow will improve. Don't be afraid to be unique—it will attract a partner who can help you further your interests. Children will disclose important information. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Redecorating or an addition to your home entertainment system will help you avoid getting into a heated discussion. An investment that deals with property should be considered. Friends will be more understanding than family. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Don't fear the unknown: Embrace it and try new things that will broaden your vision and help you recognize your options. Love is in the stars and, whether you are single or in a relationship, make decisions or moves that will encourage greater companionship. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Look out for those taking advantage of you. If demands or ultimatums are made, move on. You are used to keeping the peace and sharing with the people you are close to but, once a relationship loses its equality, you are left with little choice. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Personal changes may not please everyone but it's you who has to be happy with the alterations you make. A partnership you are in needs a little shake before you can carry on. Provide your family or roommates with a place to work, play or just hang out. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Derogatory comments will slow you down and make you insecure if you let them. Traveling will lead to problems, delays and difficulty dealing with someone in a position of authority. An unexpected change with someone older will cause added responsibilities. ✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Be careful how you react. Irrational behavior will lead to financial loss. Consider your motives before getting involved with someone who may not be a good match. Focus on work, not play. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't let your surprise show if someone makes an unexpected fast move. A twist of fate may leave you feeling uncertain but, as long as you don't show concern, you will stay in control. Avoid arguments with your lover. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Love is hot and by splitting costs with someone who likes to do the same things you do, you can do that much more. Separate your love life and your professional and financial life and you will enjoy the benefits of your relationship without worry. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You have charisma and charm and everyone gravitates to your side. You are emotional, sensitive, accepting and drawn to the unusual.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

4	7			8	2			
					4	9		7
	5		7				3	
	8							
	2		3		7		4	
							5	
	1				5		6	
8		6	4					
			2	6			9	4

Difficulty Level ★★★★ [10/11]

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

9	1	7	4	8	3	6	5	2
2	3	5	6	1	7	9	4	8
6	8	4	5	2	9	3	1	7
8	7	1	9	6	2	5	3	4
5	6	3	1	7	4	8	2	9
4	9	2	8	3	5	7	6	1
3	2	8	7	5	1	4	9	6
7	5	9	2	4	6	1	8	3
1	4	6	3	9	8	2	7	5

Difficulty Level ★★★★ [9/11]

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

SKATING THE RIDEAU CANAL Solution: 6 letters

L	A	N	D	M	A	R	K	S	L	L	O	R	T	S
N	R	S	N	O	I	T	I	D	N	O	C	R	T	T
O	T	E	U	S	C	D	E	R	A	P	E	R	P	S
I	I	D	O	E	C	A	N	A	D	A	E	W	H	I
T	S	I	R	S	G	A	L	F	T	T	A	T	N	R
C	T	L	G	G	E	A	E	S	C	L	G	(F)	O	U
A	I	G	Y	R	N	D	T	H	K	N	(U)	Y	I	O
R	C	S	A	U	O	I	U	I	E	(N)	A	E	T	T
T	S	U	L	L	N	U	T	L	R	W	I	E	A	T
T	E	M	P	E	R	A	T	U	R	E	S	R	V	A
A	L	M	I	S	D	S	O	E	O	E	H	F	O	W
S	P	E	W	L	E	P	T	W	I	D	T	H	N	A
I	U	R	O	B	E	A	D	U	L	T	S	N	N	I
Z	O	C	L	N	W	S	S	R	O	T	I	S	I	V
E	C	A	F	R	U	S	C	R	E	H	T	A	E	W

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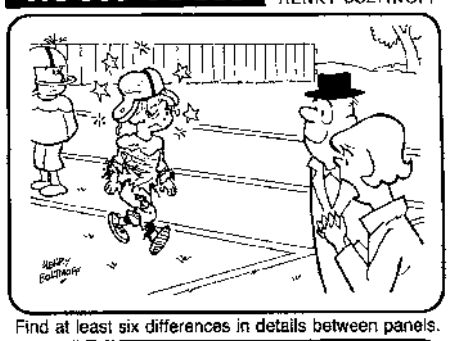
Adults, Artistic, Attraction, Best, Canada, Cold, Conditions, Couples, Flags, Flow, Free, Fun, Glide, Heritage, Innovation, Landmarks, Length, Miles, Open, Ottawa, Outing, Playground, Prepared, Rinks, Route, Rules, Size, Stretch, Strolls, Summer, Surface, Temperatures, Tourists, Treats, Visitors, Walk, Waterway, Weather, Width, Winterlude

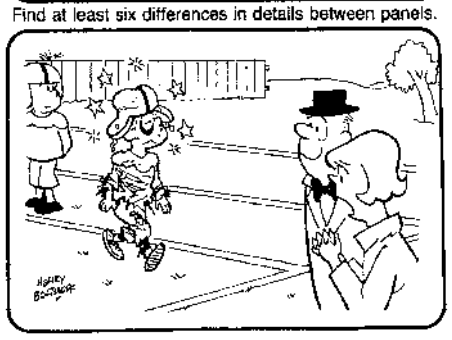
Yesterday's Answer: Jack

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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Differences: 1. Shoes are black. 2. Man has a bowtie. 3. Tree is moved. 4. Face guard is missing. 5. Boy has black eye. 6. Fence is shorter.

Wishing Well®

4	6	5	8	7	4	8	4	2	3	4	5	2
D	L	S	D	C	E	E	P	L	H	E	O	O
4	7	8	5	8	4	8	4	7	4	8	2	4
N	O	C	C	I	D	S	O	N	N	I	V	O
3	8	5	8	4	3	2	5	4	8	3	5	6
E	O	I	N	T	L	E	A	H	S	P	L	O
8	4	6	7	6	8	3	7	2	7	4	5	7
A	E	V	S	I	R	I	T	G	R	R	A	U
2	6	4	7	5	7	6	7	8	7	8	7	5
R	N	S	C	C	T	G	I	E	V	M	E	C
7	8	2	3	7	3	7	5	8	7	8	5	6
A	A	O	S	C	N	T	L	D	I	E	A	J
7	5	6	2	3	7	6	7	2	7	3	5	3
V	I	O	W	E	I	Y	T	S	Y	A	M	R

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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Super Crossword

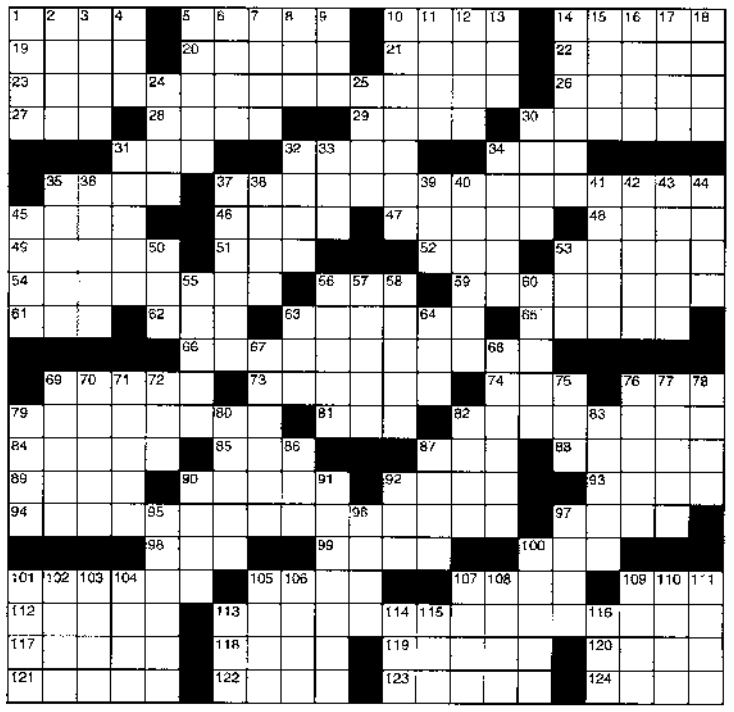
SELF-POSSESSED

ACROSS

1 Myron Floren's boss
5 Malcolm- — Warner
10 Priam's kingdom
14 Daddy duck
19 Adams or Sedgwick
20 Napoleon's fate
21 Something to skip?
22 De Valera of Ireland
23 Start of a remark by Dan Post
26 Rectify
27 Sprinted
28 Part of a suit
29 Pastoral poem
30 Sherbet flavor
31 Norm
32 Rib —
34 One of "Them!"
35 Dirty
37 Part 2 of remark
45 Colleague of Dolly and Loretta
46 Mature
47 Peachy-keen
48 Plumb crazy
49 "Maria —" ('41 song)
51 College growth
52 Before, to Byron
53 Mendicant monk
54 Utter
56 See 90 Across
59 Dispute
61 Pigment
62 Hibachi residue
63 Oaf
65 "Love — the Ruins" ('75 film)
66 Part 3 of remark
69 "I Got a Name" singer
73 Add into
74 Mil. group
75 Genesis vessel
79 "Little —" ('64 hit)
81 "Be my guest!"
82 God with a trident
84 Storms
85 — Dinh Diem
87 Paw part
88 Jergens or Astaire
89 Field of knowledge
90 With 56 Across, common appetizer
92 Chimney part
93 Dust tool
94 Part 4 of remark
97 Domino or Waller
98 Herriot title start
99 "Excuse me"
100 Western st.
101 Mugabe of Zimbabwe
105 Whetstone
107 Out of control
109 She's a sheep date
112 Venetate
113 End of remark
117 "The Kiss" sculptor
118 One of the Waughs
119 "East of Eden" director
120 Imminent
121 Upright
122 Michael of "Cabaret"
123 Unkempt
124 "Vissi d'—" ("Tosca" aria)

DOWN

1 Sport
2 O'Brien or Skinner
3 Mortgage, e.g.
4 Beer barrel
5 Baseball's Derek
6 Shaft
7 Freshen a fuchsia
8 Cover girl Carol
9 Kapaa keepsake
10 Auto transaction
11 Actress Schneider
12 Fall birthstone
13 Craving
14 Lack
15 "— Lama Ding Dong" ('61 tune)
16 Prayer finale
17 Hong —
18 "The NeverEnding Story" author
24 — Office
25 Regret audibly
30 In the know
31 Nero's instrument
32 Duplicate
33 Savored the seitan
34 Fall flower
35 David of "Dark Shadows"
36 Too tubby
37 Twist and turn
38 Bee flat?
39 Born
40 You'll get a kick out of it
41 Texas landmark
42 Symbol
43 Buttercream, e.g.
44 Laramie or Sumter
45 Devour Dostoevsky
50 carte
53 "Fee, Fi, Fo, — . . ."
55 Leading man?
56 Container
57 Arm bones
58 Annie of "Designing Women"
60 Jets and Sharks
63 Opening
64 OK honor
67 Delayed
68 Worn down
69 Cugat consort
70 Mississippi or Missouri
71 New York city
72 Bk. offerings
75 It's in the bag
76 Skilled
77 Romeo and Juliet
78 Banjo locale
79 Grouch
80 Register
82 Hogan or Hindemith
83 Perfect
86 Word with baby or snake
87 Horner's fruit
90 Sensed
91 New Jersey town
92 Adversary
95 One who no's best?
96 "What a relief!"
97 Charlatan
100 Uncool
101 Hard to find
102 Miasma
103 Portend
104 Rohmer or Carmen
105 Sign of sanctity
106 "Glad Al —" ('64 hit)
107 Carpenter's tool
108 Knight's quaff
109 Kind of pitcher
110 "Huh?"
111 Bronte heroine
113 Horse hash
114 Endorses
115 Duncan's denial
116 "Jurassic Park" stuff



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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. GEOGRAPHY: Which two countries have claimed part of the Mediterranean island of Cyprus?
2. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What kind of creature is a kookaburra?
3. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is the Koh-i-noor?
4. POETRY: What was poet Octavio Paz's earlier profession?
5. RELIGION: Which religion espouses the Eightfold Path?
6. OLYMPICS: A "salchow" jump is employed in which winter sport?
7. HISTORY: How many banks of oars were used in an ancient warship called the trireme?
8. SYMBOLS: What is the shape of a trefoil?
9. SCIENCE: What is phototropism?
10. LANGUAGE: What does the acronym BTU stand for?

Answers

1. Greece and Turkey
2. A bird
3. Famous diamond, now among the British crown jewels
4. Diplomat
5. Buddhism
6. Figure skating
7. Three
8. Clover, or three-leafed
9. An organism's response to light
10. British Thermal Unit

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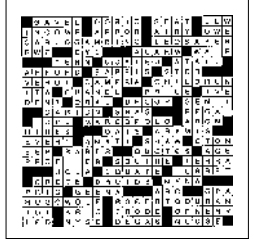
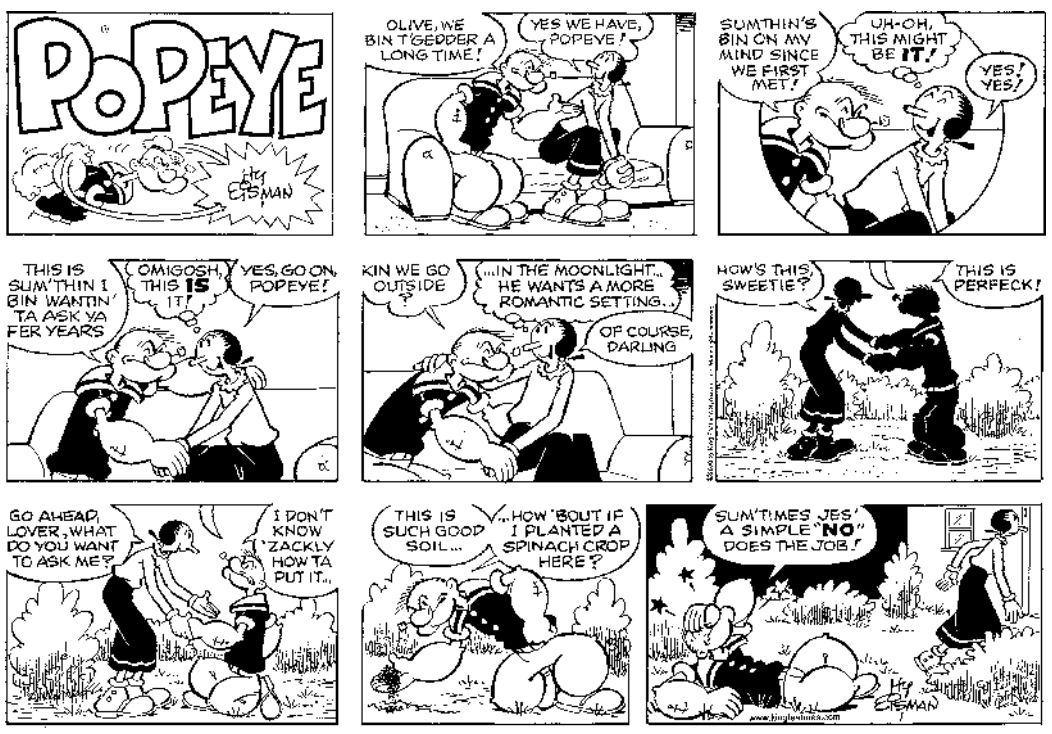
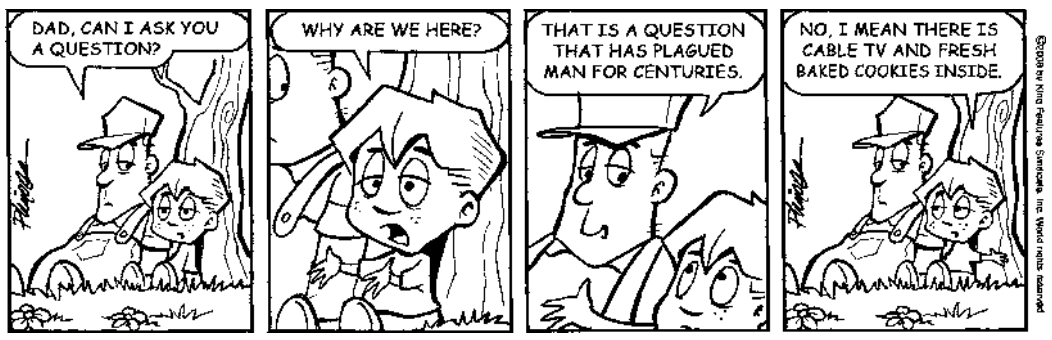
Saturday's Answers

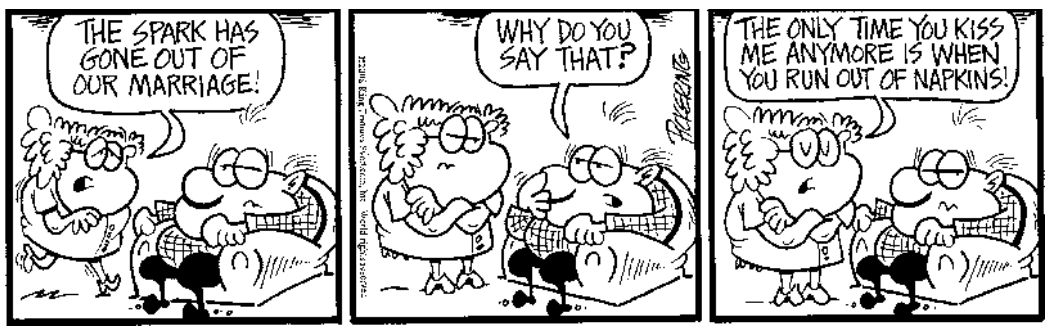


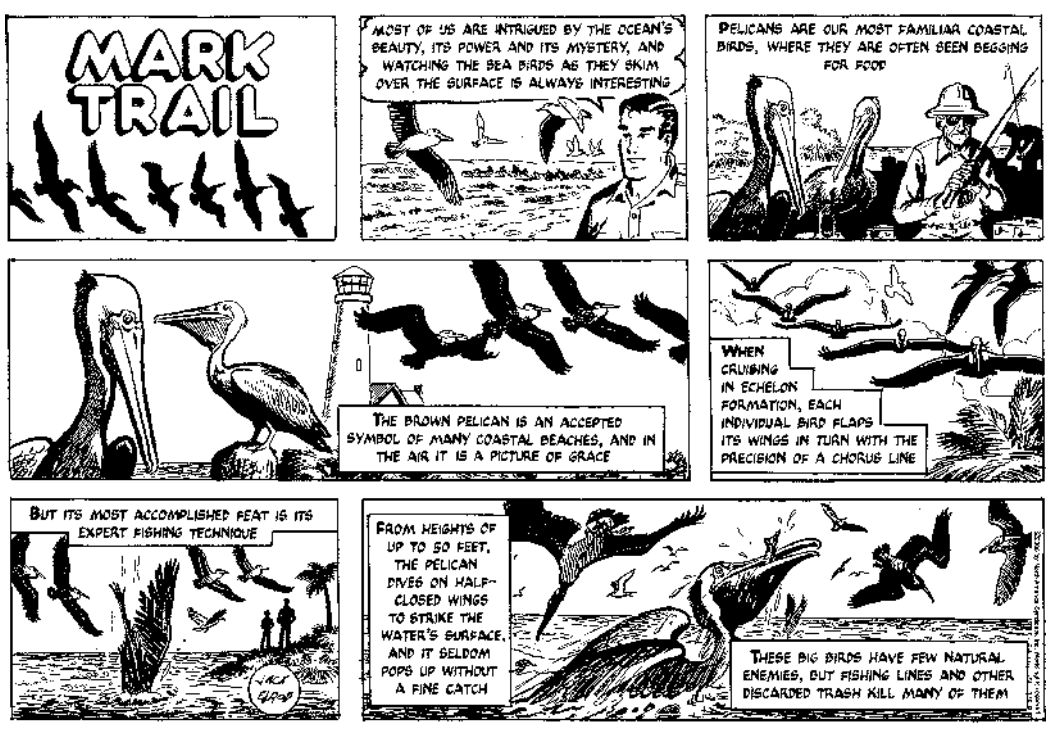

POPEYE
HEY EISMAN
OLIVE, WE BIN T'GEDDER A LONG TIME!
YES WE HAVE, POPEYE!
SUMTHIN'S BIN ON MY MIND SINCE WE FIRST MET!
UH-OH, THIS MIGHT BE IT!
YES! YES!
THIS IS SUM'THIN I BIN WANTIN' TA ASK YA FER YEARS
OMIGOSH, THIS IS IT!
YES, GO ON, POPEYE!
KIN WE GO OUTSIDE
...IN THE MOONLIGHT... HE WANTS A MORE ROMANTIC SETTING...
OF COURSE, DARLING
HOW'S THIS, SWEETIE?
THIS IS PERFECK!
GO AHEAD, LOVER, WHAT DO YOU WANT TO ASK ME?
I DON'T KNOW 'ZACKLY HOW TA PUT IT...
THIS IS SUCH GOOD SOIL...
...HOW 'BOUT IF I PLANTED A SPINACH CROP HERE?
SUM'TIMES JES' A SIMPLE "NO" DOES THE JOB!
HEY EISMAN

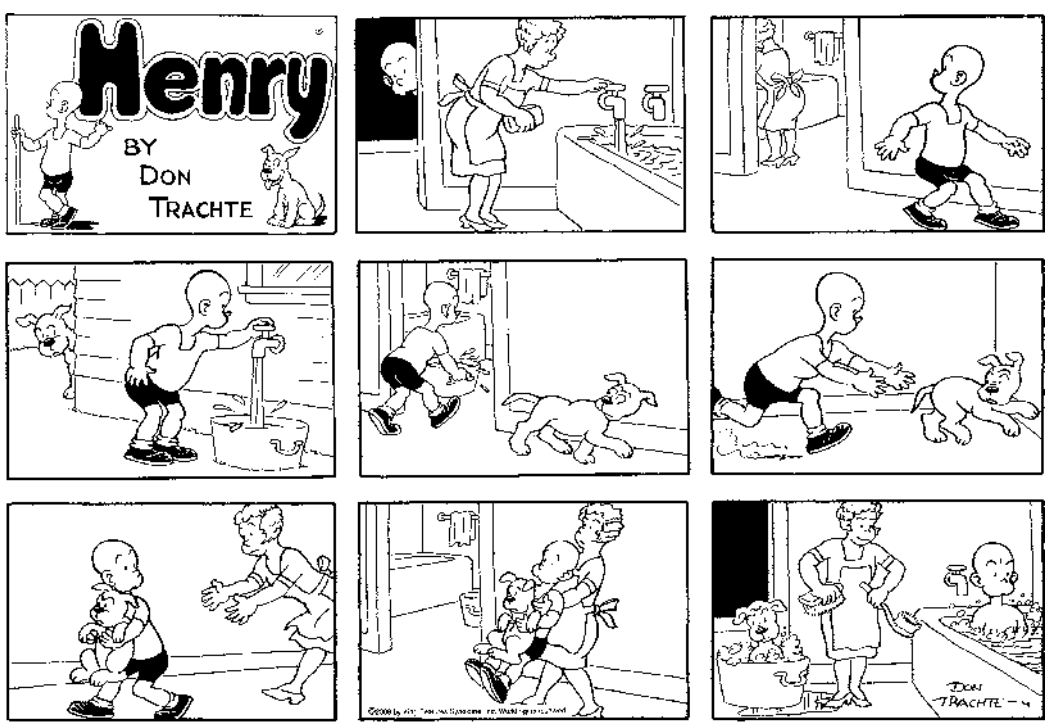
Amber Waves by Dave T. Phipps


DAD, CAN I ASK YOU A QUESTION?
WHY ARE WE HERE?
THAT IS A QUESTION THAT HAS PLAGUED MAN FOR CENTURIES.
NO, I MEAN THERE IS CABLE TV AND FRESH BAKED COOKIES INSIDE.

The Spats by Jeff Pickering




MARK TRAIL
MOST OF US ARE INTRIGUED BY THE OCEAN'S BEAUTY, ITS POWER AND ITS MYSTERY, AND WATCHING THE SEA BIRDS AS THEY SKIM OVER THE SURFACE IS ALWAYS INTERESTING
PELICANS ARE OUR MOST FAMILIAR COASTAL BIRDS, WHERE THEY ARE OFTEN SEEN BEGGING FOR FOOD
THE BROWN PELICAN IS AN ACCEPTED SYMBOL OF MANY COASTAL BEACHES, AND IN THE AIR IT IS A PICTURE OF GRACE
WHEN CRUISING IN ECHELON FORMATION, EACH INDIVIDUAL BIRD FLAPS ITS WINGS IN TURN WITH THE PRECISION OF A CHORUS LINE
BUT ITS MOST ACCOMPLISHED FEAT IS ITS EXPERT FISHING TECHNIQUE
FROM HEIGHTS OF UP TO 50 FEET, THE PELICAN DIVES ON HALF-CLOSED WINGS TO STRIKE THE WATER'S SURFACE, AND IT SELDOM POPS UP WITHOUT A FINE CATCH
THESE BIG BIRDS HAVE FEW NATURAL ENEMIES, BUT FISHING LINES AND OTHER DISCARDED TRASH KILL MANY OF THEM



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CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

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CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	**$25**
• 5-Liner	**$35**
• 3-Liner with picture	**$45**
• 5-Liner with picture	**$55**

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday And Sunday Issues:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

DIAL

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Saipan Tribune

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Laid back

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Guard files sex harassment suit vs principal
2 hurt in Puerto Rico vehicular crash. PAG
There is still hope for nonimm
joins Micronesia Si
OPINION METER
This week's poll:
With what you know of the CUC situation, do you support the adoption of new regulation

235- NEWS

Phillies beat Dodgers 3-2 in NLCS opener

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Pat Burrell and Chase Utley cleared the wall with room to spare. Manny Ramirez's drive fell just short and stayed in the park.

Utley and Burrell homered off tiring Derek Lowe in the sixth inning to back a strong performance by Cole Hamels, and the Philadelphia Phillies were a winner in their return to the NL championship series, beating the Los Angeles Dodgers 3-2 Thursday night.

"They have been pitching us tough, trying to not let us do too much damage," Utley said. "That's the game plan for a lot of teams, but we have eight guys, sometimes nine, that can swing the bats."

Ramirez put the Dodgers ahead with a long RBI double in the first, just missing a two-run homer. But the Phillies' big bats answered in the sixth, when Burrell hit a go-ahead solo homer after Utley's two-run drive tied it.

Game 2 is Friday in Philadelphia, with Phillies right-hander Brett Myers facing Dodgers righty Chad Billingsley.

The Phillies played their first NLCS game since clinching the pennant in Game 6 against Atlanta at old Veterans Stadium on Oct. 13, 1993. They're seeking their second World Series title (first was in 1980) in the franchise's 126-year history.

When Burrell lined a 3-1 pitch into the left-field stands for a 3-2 lead, the sellout crowd of 45,839 went into a frenzy.

"It was definitely intense out there," Utley said. "It gave us that little extra Adrenalin."

A lower back injury nearly sidelined Burrell in the first round against Milwaukee, and he almost got benched after going 0-for-8 in the first three games. But manager Charlie Manuel kept Burrell in the lineup, and he responded with two homers and four RBIs in the clinching win over the Brewers.

AP

Philadelphia Phillies' Brad Lidge reacts at the conclusion of the Phillies 3-2 win over the Los Angeles Dodgers in Game 1 of the National League championship series Thursday, Oct. 9, 2008, in Philadelphia.

"Right now he's staying back behind the ball and driving the ball," Manuel said.

Hamels settled down after the first and wound up allowing two runs and six hits, striking out eight.

"Cole pitched outstanding," Utley said. "He gave up a few early runs, but after that he kind of kept them off the bases and limited the damage."

Ryan Madson pitched a scoreless eighth, and Brad Lidge finished with a perfect ninth for his third save of the postseason. Lidge is 44-for-44 in save chances this year.

Lowe had cruised through the first five innings, allowing just four singles, but the right-hander with the hard sinker couldn't make it out of the sixth.

Speedy Shane Victorino reached second base leading off on shortstop Rafael Furcal's throwing error. Utley ripped the next pitch into the seats in right-center for his first postseason homer in 29 at-bats, tying it at 2.

"It was up, but it wasn't that bad a pitch," Utley said.

Utley grew up a Dodgers fan and attended Game 2 of the 1988 World Series. He was drafted by his hometown team out of high school in 1997 but chose to go to UCLA and ended up being Philadelphia's first-round pick in 2000.

One out after Utley connected, Burrell circled the bases as Lowe looked up at the fireworks going off beyond the swinging replica Liberty Bell that hangs beyond the outfield stands. Then the pitcher waited for manager Joe Torre to walk to the mound. Burrell high-fived teammates and got a curtain call from long-suffering fans, who waited 15 years to see the Phillies return to the NLCS.

Burrell is in the final season of a $50 million, six-year contract and it's uncertain whether the Phillies will bring him back. The way he's swinging now, he won't have a hard time finding a home.

"It feels great, but you can't get too caught up in this," Burrell said. "We've got a lot of work to do."

Los Angeles took a 1-0 lead in the first off Hamels, who tossed eight shutout innings against Milwaukee in Game 1 of the division series.

Andre Ethier hit a one-out double. With first base open, Manuel chose to let Hamels pitch to Ramirez. The slugger made the Phillies pay, hitting an RBI double high off the 19-foot wall just left of straightaway center.

"I guess that's the furthest ball that anyone can hit and not be out of the yard," Hamels said. Ramirez, whose 68 postseason RBIs are second only to Bernie Williams' 80, was 2-for-4. When Ramirez came to the plate as the tying run with one out in the eighth, Manuel jogged out to chat with Madson in a rare strategy session with nobody on base. Whatever he said, it worked. Ramirez lined out to third base.

"I wanted to make sure we knew how to pitch him," Manuel said.

Blake DeWitt's sacrifice fly in the fourth made it 2-0. Matt Kemp led off the inning with a looping ground-rule double down the right-field line. Kemp advanced to third on Casey Blake's grounder to shortstop and scored on DeWitt's fly to center.

Lowe's sinker was so sharp early on that he even got Jayson Werth to ground into his third double-play in 786 plate appearances since joining the Phillies last year.

Right from the start, fans waved their white-and-red "Fightin' Phils" towels and screamed "Beat LA," a chant first made popular by Boston fans as the Philadelphia 76ers were finishing off the Celtics to advance to the 1983 NBA Finals against the Los Angeles Lakers.

"First game is definitely important," Manuel said. "But you still have to win four games."

Rays ready for ALCS...and rivalry with Red Sox

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Winning creates a rivalry, the Boston Red Sox and Tampa Bay Rays claim, rather than years of testy relations between the teams.

That was the message coming out of the AL championship series Thursday, with both sides trying to play down a history of brawling that's adding spice to the buildup.

"Bad blood?" smiling Boston slugger David Ortiz said. "There's no bad blood. This is not the WWF. It's a baseball game, bro.

"I mean, come on. I walk out there and they're hugging me, and I hug them back. It's a game. Sometimes you have things happening. It stays on the field. It's not like you're going to walk to the parking lot and wait for somebody," he said.

The wait for the start of the ALCS is almost over. Game 1 in the best-of-seven series is Friday night.

"I know a lot is being made of past pugilistic events. But that has nothing to do with today. Nothing," Rays manager Joe Maddon said.

"Those were when the Devil Rays were really struggling, and the games had an entirely different tone to them. We're a different team. We're a different organization now."

They're AL East champions, to be more precise. And, looking to end wild-card Boston's quest for a third World Series title in five years.

Now, that's something that can turn Rays-Red Sox into a genuine rivalry, Maddon said.

"We had the one incident this year. That to me also is ancient history," Maddon said, referring to a bench-clearing brawl June 5 at Fenway Park that led to eight suspensions.

"The rivalry is being built because we're good. That's why. We're in the same division and now we're good. ... It has to begin somewhere. It's got to be this genesis where everything begins. That's what's happening right now. This year truly is building into a legitimate rivalry, whereas in the past I think it was more fabricated."

The tension between the teams lingers in 2000, when Pedro Martinez plunked Gerald Williams in the first inning of a game in which the only hit the Boston ace yielded was a ninth-inning single to John Flaherty.

Williams rushed the mound and was ejected. And, there's been trouble ever since.

Tampa Bay's Carl Crawford was one of the players suspended in June when Boston's Coco Crisp charged the mound after being hit with a pitch by James Shields.

Crawford likened the most recent scrap to a younger brother finally deciding to stand up to an older brother who's always pushing him around.

Crawford noted it was not so long ago that the Red Sox were a similar position with the New York Yankees.

"We're a lot alike," Crawford said. "And sometimes when get people who are alike get together and going after the same thing, they don't get along. ... It's not personal, though, between the players. It's what happens in baseball."

Boston manager Terry Francona agreed that with what's at stake in the ALCS, past skirmishes are the furthest thing from the minds of the players.

Shields will start Game 1 for Tampa Bay, facing 18-game winner Daisuke Matsuzaka.

"You want to stick around for the whole series," said Tampa Bay's Jonny Gomes, who like Shields, was suspended for his role in the June fight. "No one is going to act out. This isn't the time or the place."

The Rays won the season series 10-8, including eight of nine games at Tropicana Field. The Red Sox were 7-2 at Fenway Park, where the series shifts after Red Sox ace Josh Beckett faces Scott Kazmir in Game 2 here Saturday.

Boston second baseman Dustin Pedroia said it's not a fluke that the Rays are in the ALCS.

"There were people writing them off in May. They kept plugging away and winning games and ended up winning the American League East," Pedroia said.

"They proved everybody wrong. They know they belong here and they're one of the best teams in baseball. If we want to advance to the World Series, we're going to have to play better than them."

Eight months ago in spring training—during which the Rays twice scrapped with the Yankees—Maddon dared his young team to believe they not only could compete in the division, but win the pennant.

Now, they're four victories away.

"One of my early messages was: `Let's understand one thing. Nobody's going to give us anything, now or in the future. If we want something, we definitely have to take it," Maddon said.

"That's how you have to approach it, you're taking all the time in the most positive selfish way possible."

Cowboys won't discipline 'Pacman' for scuffle

IRVING, Texas (AP)—Troubled cornerback Adam "Pacman" Jones won't be disciplined by the Dallas Cowboys for a scuffle with his bodyguard that team owner Jerry Jones said resulted from joking banter that got out of hand and was quickly settled.

"They were literally kidding each other," Jerry Jones said Thursday. "They were jiving around ... and all of a sudden one of them starting saying some things, and here you go."

Dallas police were called to an upscale downtown hotel because of the disturbance late Tuesday night. No charges were filed.

While not planning any discipline for Adam Jones, Jerry Jones acknowledged that he was "very disappointed in that we're having to deal with this."

It remained unclear if the NFL planned any discipline.

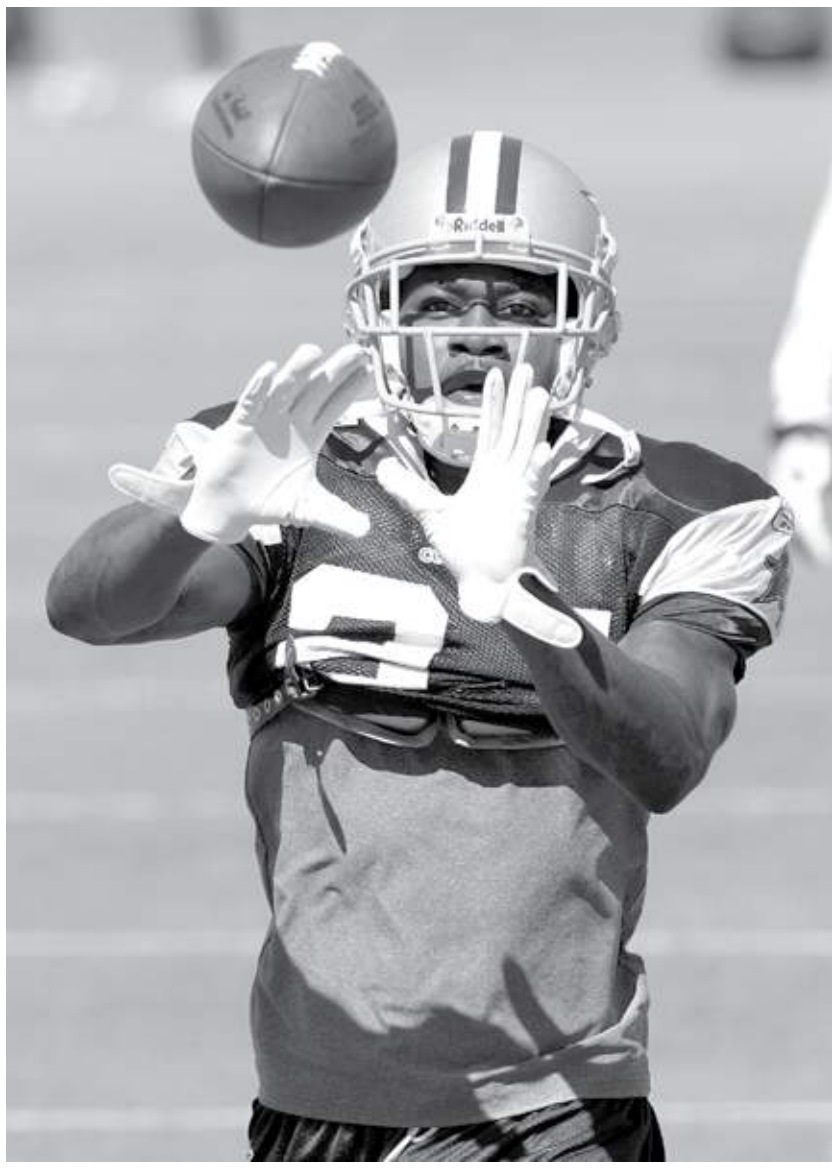
Adam Jones was fully reinstated by commissioner Roger Goodell just before the season opener after being suspended for 17 months and missing the entire 2007 season because of numerous off-field problems. He has started all five games with the Cowboys.

Goodell said in a radio interview Thursday that the league was investigating the matter. He said he didn't speak with Adam Jones individually during a previously scheduled meeting with the entire Cowboys team following their practice Wednesday.

"I'm disappointed that we're even discussing this at this point in time," Goodell said on ESPN Radio. "But we'll have to wait for the facts."

Jerry Jones said he already had all the facts, but that the NFL as part of its own investigation was talking to Adam Jones and Tommy Jones, the bodyguard who is part of a security detail provided by the team to be with the player at all times.

"With the availability of the information that I have right now, we don't have club discipline in mind here," Jerry Jones said.



AP

Dallas Cowboys' Adam Jones reaches out for a pass during football practice at the Cowboys training facility in Irving, Texas, Thursday Oct. 9, 2008.

Adam Jones was arrested six times and involved in 12 incidents requiring police intervention from the time the Tennessee Titans drafted him in the first round in 2005 and sent him to Dallas in April to complete a long-discussed trade.

"Before he joined the Cowboys, he built up a reservoir of doubt," Jerry Jones said. "He had created with his actions no benefit of the doubt."

Because of that, Jerry Jones knew when Adam Jones came to Dallas that something "could possibly happen." The owner never anticipated a scuffle with one of his own security people.

"I did not dream that we would get in a situation where we had all the structure in place and literally have an incident that casts lightly with him publicly or with the league that would involve the very people that you're doing the structure with," Jerry Jones said.

Jerry Jones said the incident took part at a hotel where the player was attending a private party. There was alcohol served at the party, but Jones was told that the player's "conduct should not be interpreted as over drinking."

The owner called the incident an "aberration."

Coach Wade Phillips said Jones would play Sunday against the Arizona Cardinals. The coach talked to his players about the incident before they practiced Thursday.

"What I'm trying to do is get this team to focus on this game and the team that we are playing," Phillips said. "We're moving on in that direction."

Adam Jones wasn't in the locker room Thursday when it was open to reporters.

Nose tackle Tank Johnson, who brought his own checkered past to Dallas, said the incident was overblown and that it wouldn't distract the team.

"This is not that big of a deal," Johnson said. "Nobody's in jail, nobody's in trouble, nobody's hurt. We're all here ready to practice, ready to work."

An empty locker separates the cubicles of Jones and Johnson, who missed the first eight games last season while serving an NFL suspension for a series of off-field problems. Johnson doesn't think Goodell will take any punitive action against the cornerback.

Dallas police said officers responded to a disturbance about 11 p.m. Tuesday. Officers said the incident was over by the time they arrived and that some hotel employees reported overhearing a scuffle in the men's restroom in the lobby.

Jones and his bodyguard said everything was OK, and both were driven from the hotel by an acquaintance, police said. The bodyguard told police he didn't want to press charges.

Tennessee got a fourth-round pick in the April draft, and a sixth-rounder next year for Jones. The Cowboys could get back a fifth-rounder in 2009 if Jones is punished again.

"That doesn't affect us," Titans coach Jeff Fisher said Thursday. "We've moved on and that's their issue."

Jones was among the Titans' best defensive players for two years until Goodell suspended him before the 2007 season. The Titans distanced themselves from Jones and eventually traded him.

The highest-profile incident involving Jones was a shooting at a Las Vegas strip club that left one club employee paralyzed. Jones denied involvement in the shooting.

Jones has started two games in place of injured Pro Bowl cornerback Terence Newman, and the others when the team opened games with five defensive backs. Jones has 22 tackles with no interceptions.

Newman missed all the preseason and the season opener with groin injury, then returned for three games before missing Sunday against Cincinnati because of an abdominal strain. Newman is expected to miss Sunday's game at Arizona, and could miss more depending on the severity of the injury.

Pro Bowl safety Roy Williams, who missed the last three games with a fractured right forearm, was back at practice Wednesday but is not expected to play this week.

Harris leads Nets in OT win over Heat in Paris exhibition

PARIS (AP)—Devin Harris scored 21 points to lead the New Jersey Nets to a 100-98 overtime victory over the Miami Heat on Thursday night in an exhibition game.

Michael Beasley, the second overall draft pick in June, had 21 points for the Heat, but missed a chance to force a second overtime when the second of his two free throws rattled out in the closing seconds.

"The game started off a little slow for us. We had a lot of turnovers getting used to this new offense," Harris said. "It took a while to get a little warmed up to what we needed to do out there. In the second half we did a bit better at hitting the outside shots and that opened up the lanes."

Dwyane Wade also scored 21 points for Miami and was largely rested in the third and fourth quarters, while Vince Carter was limited to only eight points for the Nets before limping off after tweaking his left hamstring.

"The severity of it we don't know. We'll just go day by day and see how if feels," Nets coach Lawrence Frank said. "But that gave an opportunity to see Chris Douglas-Roberts and his scoring practically held us together."

Douglas-Roberts had 18 points and helped the Nets rally.

The Heat led 41-29 in the second quarter, but the Nets rallied to take an 87-77 lead with less than 5 minutes left in regulation. Miami fought back before Stromile Swift's dunk put the Nets ahead 91-89 with 30 seconds remaining. Miami's Daequan Cook scored to send the game to overtime.

"For the most part it was an enjoyable game," Wade said. "The young guys didn't give up and continued to play. I think it's a good thing. They've got to know how to make plays and keep their composure."

Wade thinks Beasley's pressure miss will help him learn when he faces the same situation in bigger games.

"No question it will, he's a competitive guy and has immense talent and skill," Wade said. "Sometimes it goes in and sometimes it doesn't. I think he understands that another day is another play. Don't get your head down."

The Heat will play the Nets again Sunday in London, part of the annual NBA Europe Live tour. Also, the New Orleans Hornets will face the Washington Wizards in Berlin on Tuesday, and three days later in Barcelona, Spain.

"I think it's great the NBA comes here, the players get energized by it," Frank said. "The crowd was so energized and to be in such a beautiful city makes it a fun game."

Carter hopes to recover in time to play on Sunday.

"It feels OK, it was more like a tweak," Carter said. "I think I landed funny, but I was able to catch it before I did anything bad to it. I just want to be cautious and try and work my way into the line up on Sunday if I can."

Wade and Carter drew huge cheers from the crowd of 15,000. So did Miami's Yakhouba Diawara, who grew up in the Paris suburbs.

"I was very happy to come back home, I only played one time before in this stadium," he said.

Both teams are looking to rebound from disappointing seasons. The Nets failed to make the playoffs for the first time since 2001 last season, and the Heat were an NBA-worst 15-67 in 2007-08.

"This is an extended training camp for us," first-year Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "Any additional playing time for us is good."

Nathan Green shoots 62 to lead Texas Open

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Nathan Green got off to a rocky start Thursday in the Texas Open. It ended up jump-starting the best round of the Australian's PGA Tour career.

"I didn't feel really good before the round started and then on the first hole I snapped my drive. It hit a rock and bounced back in the fairway," Green said. "From there, everything went pretty well."

Winless in three seasons on the PGA Tour, Green birdied nine of the first 16 holes before dropping a stroke on the par-3 17th and closing with a par for an 8-under 62 and a two-stroke lead over Olin Browne and Paul Claxton.

Claxton and Browne, a three-time tour winner, had bogey-free 64s in sunny and warm conditions on La Cantera Golf Club's Resort Course.

"This course is right up my alley," said Browne, who tied for second in the 2005 tournament. "I hit every green and only had one shaky putt."

Tim Herron, Greg Kraft, Patrick Sheehan, Jason Gore, Nick O'Hern and Chad Collins opened with 65s, and Paul Goydos and Bob Tway topped a group at 66.

Defending champion Justin Leonard, the former University of Texas star seeking a record fourth victory in the event, shot a 70.

"I hit the ball pretty well off the tee, but didn't make any putts," Leonard said. "The greens weren't as good as they have been, but they were good enough to make putts."

Green shot a 5-under 30 on the front nine, then pulled away from the field with birdies on No. 2 10, 13, 14 and 16 for a four-shot lead.

"It was just one of those days were everything went right," said Green, who tied for second in the 2006 Buick Invitational for his best PGA Tour finish. ""I had two months were I couldn't seem to get anything right, so this was nice to see."

Green recently moved to the Dallas suburb of McKinney to ease his travel burdens and said playing in his adopted home state was a relief.

"I'm not a big fan of planes, so we drove down here Tuesday and it was very relaxing," Green said.

Starting at the par-4 sixth hole, he birdied five holes in a row with putts all 15 feet or shorter. His longest putt of the day came on the par 4 16th, when he rolled in a 24-foot birdie try.

Herron won the 1997 tournament.

"I don't have any problems with conjuring up good memories here," Herron said. "Of course, I made some putts, which helps as well."

Strong second half lifts TNT past undermanned Air21

MANILA, Philippines—Talk 'N Text wore down undermanned Air21 Thursday night to score a come-from-behind 112-101 victory at the Ynares Sports Arena in Pasig City and grab the early solo lead in the KFC-PBA Philippine Cup.

Coming off a 98-97 squeaker over arch rival Coca-Cola in the season-opening game last Saturday, the Tropang Texters used a telling 20-0 run midway through the fourth quarter to take control of the game against the Express who were missing four key players.

Jimmy Alapag had eight points, Mac-Mac Cardona added five and rookie Jared Dillinger three in that pivotal breakaway which enabled Talk 'N Text to turn a 97-86 deficit into a 106-97 lead which the Tropang Texters were able to hang on to until the final buzzer.

Dillinger, the No. 2 overall pick in this year's Draft, and Alapag, the 2003 Rookie of the Year, finished with 23 points and six rebounds apiece, Cardona added 22 markers—20 in the second half—while Harvey Carey also played huge with his 16 points and conference-high 20 rebounds for Talk 'N Text which actually trailed by as much as 15 points in the second period.

Air21, which succumbed to its second straight defeat, was led by the 23 points of Gary David while J.R. Quinahan, acquired from Alaska during the preseason in exchange for rookie Mark Borboran, came up with his breakout game in the pros to the tune of 15 points and 17 rebounds—both career-highs—which came with four assists, two shotblocks and one steal.

But the Express, who were beaten by Rain or Shine 120-102 last Sunday, were not able to sustain their strong second half in the absence of suspended players Arwind Santos and Homer Se,and also Doug Kramer who tied the knot with actress Cheska Garcia Thursday. J.C. Intal was also not around as he was Kramer's best man during the wedding.

Talk 'N Text 112 – Dillinger 23, Alapag 23, Cardona 22, Carey 16, de Ocampo Y. 11, Castro 9, Allado 4, Reyes 2, Ritualo 2, Escobal 0, Aljamal 0, Lao 0.

Air21 102 – David 23, Quinahan 15, Arboleda 15, de Ocampo R. 14, Billones 13, Canaleta 11, Cruz 6, Sta. Maria 4, Villanueva 0.

Quarterscores: 16-21, 40-53, 80-89, 112-101. ***(www.pba.com.ph)***

DEVELOPING

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through provision of officials, advice, and technical manuals/videos on the rules.

"We would also like to provide training for score bench and match statisticians, do coaching clinic and have them accredited," Steve said.

"We also like to have a talent identification and development program for the best athletes from the school program," Steve added.

PSS has an annual basketball tournament for the elementary schools and the Marianas High School Interscholastic Organization League for middle and high school students.

"At the same time, FIBA Oceania and BANMI would like to use the schools as a point of contact to encourage more boys and girls, not just the elite players from the school, to take part in recreational leagues and tournaments," Steve said.

"We see this as the other part of BANMI's role to promote sport as a healthy lifestyle decision and perhaps an antidote for the increasing number of obesity cases and the rising number of people with heart disease and diabetes in Pacific Island countries," Steve said.

The FIBA Oceania official added that besides the promotion of a healthy lifestyle through playing basketball, the sport can help reduce anti-social behavior and drift the youth away from substance abuse.

CNMI

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CNMI's neighbor Guam.

White said during the NMASA meeting that CNMI sports supporter Jerry Tan informed him of Guam's membership in EAGA and inquired if CNMI can do the same.

Tan said he learned of the East Asian Games when he went to Hong Kong and saw banners and billboards promoting the event which the former British colony will be hosting next year.

"Guam is listed as one of the participating countries," Tan said.

He added that the cost of traveling to Hong Kong and other East Asian countries is a lot lower than South Pacific countries, so if the CNMI becomes a part of the East Asian Games, this will provide more opportunities for our athletes to compete.

Other members of the East Asian Games are China, Japan, North and South Korea, Macau, Mongolia, and Chinese-Taipei.

Kazakhstan used to be a member of EAGA, but since it became a European Olympic Committee member, it does not take part in these Games anymore. Kazakhstan is now a member of Olympic Council of Asia and joins the Central Asian Games.

The East Asian Games like the Olympics and the Asian Games are held every four years. Its inaugural competition was held in 1993 in Shanghai, China with the host claiming the overall championship. Busan, South Korea hosted it in 1997 and Osaka, Japan in 2001.

The 2005 edition of the East Asian Games was held in Macau, while Tianjin, China will host the event in 2013.

Currently, 20 sports are included in the calendar of events in the East Asian Games. The list include athletics, aquatics, badminton, basketball, bowling, dancesport, dragon boat racing, field hockey, football, gymnastics, handball, judo, karatedo, rowing, shooting, soft tennis, taekwondo, lawn tennis, weightlifting, and wushu.

Soft tennis differs from regular tennis in that it uses soft rubber balls instead of hard yellow balls. It is played primarily in Asia, especially in Japan, Taiwan, South Korea, and the Philippines.

ALL SET

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doubleheader.

The seven quintets that are taking part in the 2008 season of the PILCOWA caging are Aon Insurance, Century Insurance, C&R Distributors, Diamond Auto Care, MIGS, Olivos, and host Pacific Trading Co.

Aon Insurance will be bannered by veteran big men Leo Factor, Marlon de Dios, and Jorge De Guzman. Jawn Joyner, Dennis Vinas, and Larry Palero will take the cudgets for Century Insurance.

C&R Distributors, meanwhile, will pin its hopes on Andres "Jhun" Estolas Jr., Jericho Cruz, and James Villacrusis.

Diamond Auto Care will lean on the likes of Elmer Esdrelon, Edsel Mendoza, and Darwin Barbo, while MIGS will be powered by Banjo Basila, Sonny Lerio, and Bonbon Cadagat.

Amor Casabuena, Dante Olivos, and Mike Umali will spearhead Olivos, while Pacific Trading will field a lineup that includes Ryan Sanciangco, Leo Itaas, and Jojo Garon.

Muleta said games in the PILCOWA caging will be played every Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday. Two games will be scheduled each playing date.

Before the start of the playoffs, an All-Star game will be held, according to Muleta. At the end of the season, the group will also select a mythical five, and award trophies for best in rebound, best in assists, best in steals, best in scoring, best in 3-pointers, and MVP.

FOR

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use what he doesn't do (dominate the game) to argue that he won't be sorely missed, and that his absence will free up time for the rookie first-round draft pick, JaVale McGee.

That would be a silly position to take. McGee, who played only two years of college basketball, isn't ready for the NBA's big-man mayhem.

And Haywood was just starting to settle into a niche. An Eastern Conference all-star told me a few weeks ago that Haywood, at last, had become an efficient player, somebody who could disrupt even good offensive players with his defense while generating enough offense to help the Wizards hold their own down low. The numbers support that.

Haywood played 80 games last year and his contributions, at least statistically, increased in the playoffs. He scored more points and shot a better percentage from the floor and from the line than he did in the regular season. Haywood, after all that erratic silliness with Etan Thomas a couple of years ago, was dependable last season. He wasn't going to be Shaq, but he could be counted on for nearly 30 minutes a game and quite a few double-doubles. He's 28 years old and seemed to be understanding exactly what he needed to do to help this particular team win some games.

With Haywood, Jamison, Arenas and Caron Butler on the floor, the Wizards can compete—not necessarily beat, but compete—with any and everybody in the Eastern Conference. They had a fighting chance at least, along with Detroit, Orlando, Toronto, Philly and Cleveland to be the "other" team in the Eastern Conference finals. With Haywood out, Arenas's debut delayed and Jamison missing who knows how much of the preseason, it's almost impossible to see the Wizards getting off to a good start. I don't know how they have a great season, unless Andray Blatche, Nick Young and McGee catch fire and become big-time players by the All-Star break. There's no sane season forecast that would put the Wizards ahead of Orlando in the division race. And while Miami is a total wild card, what with a rookie head coach, I'd be wary of putting the Wizards, without Arenas and Haywood, ahead of a team featuring a healthy and rejuvenated Dwyane Wade, Shawn Marion and rookie scoring machine Michael Beasley.

It's almost incomprehensible the Wizards could start the season with as many health issues as they had when last season ended. As long as we're dealing with the optimistic beginning to the NBA season, the best spin one could put on this is that it's better to begin the season with all these injuries and hope to get people back mid-winter than to lose them approaching the playoffs and have no chance, which is exactly what happened in both 2007 and 2008.

Also, you don't want to just sit there spinning your wheels while the rest of the Eastern Conference teams get better, which they are. The Bulls and Pacers could both be really terrible. But new-look Milwaukee (Richard Jefferson and rookie Joe Alexander will join Michael Redd and Andrew Bogut) should be better. Charlotte, another division opponent, will be improved if for no other reason than they'll be coached by Larry Brown. There might not be as many pigeons in the East as there have been. Even the Knicks, with Mike D'Antoni shaking things up, can't be as dreadful as they've been. Perhaps the Warriors will find some good news during their preseason trip to Europe. Perhaps one of the youngsters will emerge as one of the league's shooting stars. More likely, the Washington Wizards will have to rely on spirit to begin the season because it looks as though once again the flesh isn't willing.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

TEXAS OPEN SCORES

SAN ANTONIO (AP)–Scores Thursday from the $4.5 million PGA Tour Texas open at the par-70, 6,881-yard LaCantera Golf Club, Resort Course

FIRST ROUND

Nathan Green	30-32	62
Olin Browne	33-31	64
Paul Claxton	31-33	64
Greg Kraft	34-31	65
Tim Herron	32-33	65
Patrick Sheehan	31-34	65
Jason Gore	34-31	65
Nick O'Hern	30-35	65
Chad Collins	33-32	65
Michael Bradley	33-33	66
Steve Allan	32-34	66
Tag Ridings	32-34	66
Joe Ogilvie	31-35	66
Bob Tway	32-34	66
Alejandro Canizares	31-35	66
Todd Demsey	34-32	66
Paul Goydos	30-36	66
Kyle Thompson	32-34	66
Chris Stroud	33-33	66
Jim McGovern	33-34	67
Nick Watney	32-35	67
Dustin Johnson	34-33	67
Charlie Wi	32-35	67
Martin Laird	32-35	67
Chez Reavie	33-34	67
Rory Sabbatini	33-34	67
Tim Wilkinson	32-35	67
Mathew Goggin	33-34	67
Kevin Stadler	33-34	67
Tim Petrovic	33-34	67
Jimmy Walker	35-32	67
John Riegger	32-36	68
Steve Elkington	33-35	68
Brian Gay	35-33	68
Stephen Ames	36-32	68
Charley Hoffman	35-33	68
Troy Matteson	34-34	68
Mark Hensby	32-36	68
Brad Elder	35-33	68
Gavin Coles	34-34	68
Tommy Gainey	32-36	68
Bob Estes	36-32	68
Bo Van Pelt	35-33	68
Scott Verplank	35-33	68
Joe Durant	35-33	68
Mark Wilson	32-36	68
David Toms	35-33	68
Charles Howell III	33-35	68
Chris DiMarco	36-32	68
Steve Marino	36-32	68
Nick Flanagan	32-36	68
J.L. Lewis	36-32	68
Bob Sowards	33-35	68
Jason Allred	32-36	68
Michael H. Thompson	34-34	68
Shane Bertsch	35-34	69
Ben Crane	34-35	69
Jeff Overton	31-38	69
Davis Love III	33-36	69
Frank Lickliter II	34-35	69
Doug LaBelle II	34-35	69
Scott Sterling	36-33	69
Andrew Buckle	33-36	69
Matt Jones	36-33	69
Harrison Frazar	34-35	69
Carlos Franco	35-34	69
David Ogrin	32-37	69
Zach Johnson	34-35	69
Craig Kanada	37-32	69
Jhonattan Vegas	34-35	69
Brenden Pappas	36-34	70
Tom Pernice, Jr.	34-36	70
Mathias Gronberg	35-35	70
Justin Leonard	35-35	70
Richard S. Johnson	34-36	70
J.J. Henry	36-34	70
Rod Pampling	34-36	70
Vaughn Taylor	33-37	70
Brett Rumford	34-36	70
Marc Turnesa	34-36	70
Brandt Jobe	33-37	70
Kevin Streelman	35-35	70
Omar Uresti	36-34	70
Peter Lonard	36-34	70
Jeff Gove	34-36	70
Robert Gamez	34-36	70
Ryan Armour	34-36	70
Bob Heintz	35-35	70
Tommy Armour III	35-36	71
Dean Wilson	36-35	71
David Duval	37-34	71
Jason Dufner	35-36	71
Jon Mills	36-35	71
Cody Freeman	37-34	71
Pat Perez	37-34	71
Kent Jones	36-35	71
Chad Campbell	34-37	71
Jerry Kelly	36-35	71
Ron Whittaker	37-34	71
Richard Johnson	35-36	71
Rich Beem	35-37	72
Tom Scherrer	37-35	72
Ted Purdy	35-37	72
J.P. Hayes	36-36	72
Jay Williamson	36-36	72
Sean O'Hair	37-35	72
Heath Slocum	36-36	72
Lee Janzen	39-33	72
Ryan Palmer	36-36	72
Nicholas Thompson	36-36	72
Parker McLachlin	36-37	73
Phil Tataurangi	35-38	73
Lonny Alexander	36-37	73
Y.E. Yang	36-37	73
Bruce Smith	38-35	73
Jesper Parnevik	37-36	73
Jeff Maggert	37-36	73
John Senden	35-38	73
Jin Park	37-36	73
Kenneth Ferrie	36-37	73
Kevin Chappell	39-34	73
Matt Kuchar	37-37	74
Cameron Beckman	35-39	74
Travis Perkins	38-36	74
Eric Axley	37-38	75
Brad Adamonis	37-38	75
Jason Day	38-39	77
David Lutterus	38-39	77
Billy Andrade	40-38	78
Marco Dawson	43-36	79
Brian Davis	DQ	
Robert Garrigus	WD	

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tropang Texters use 20-0 run in 4th to wear down Express

Talk 'N Text wore down undermanned Air21 Thursday night to score a come-from-behind 112-101 victory at the Ynares Sports Arena in Pasig City and grab the early solo lead in the KFC-PBA Philippine Cup.

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Phillies beat Dodgers 3-2 in NLCS opener

Pat Burrell and Chase Utley cleared the wall with room to spare. Manny Ramirez's drive fell just short and stayed in the park.

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'Developing inter-scholastic caging is key'

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

FIBA Oceania has listed several goals it wishes to accomplish from its meeting with the public and private school officials in the CNMI.

"We would like to advise school authorities of our vision for the future of basketball for young people in the CNMI. Through BANMI, we would like to work more closely with both the government and private school system," FIBA Oceania Secretary General Steve Smith said.

Steve and wife Judy, who is FIBA Oceania's Administration Officer, arrived on Saipan Sunday after a weeklong stay in Guam during the 7th FIBA Oceania Youth Tournament. Besides meeting with school officials, they also inspected facilities for the 2009 Oceania Tournament, which Saipan will be hosting in June.

"We would like the schools go have a synchronize competition calendar so that BANMI competitions are not running at the same time as schools competitions," Steve said.

He added schools should have their tournaments/leagues under FIBA rules, as these are rules used in international competitions.

Smith, who met with school officials Wednesday, said FIBA Oceania, through the Basketball Association of Northern Mariana Islands, would provide technical support for school competitions

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Teachers and students in action during the 2006 All-Star Game of the Coalition of Private School Basketball League. FIBA Oceania wishes both the private and public schools in the CNMI to use FIBA rules in their tournaments.

By MICHAEL WILBON
(c) 2008, The Washington Post

For Wizards, it's a pain to look ahead

Three days into preseason the NBA is brimming with good news. The entire league is slipstreaming behind the U.S. Olympic team and its gold medal showing both on the court and wherever one of its members showed up in Beijing. Optimism is rampant.

In Houston, the Rockets think they can harness Ron Artest. Folks in Philly think Elton Brand can lead the 76ers to places they haven't been since Allen Iverson was a pup. In Portland, Greg Oden is bringing back the enthusiasm that basketball-crazed community once had for the Bill Walton teams. Toronto, with the addition of Jermaine O'Neal, has twin towers and designs on reaching the conference finals. New Orleans hasn't cared this much about hoops since Pete Maravich left LSU. And the Miami Heat, forlorn for two years, now feature three players who at least make you wonder if they can amount to anything again. And that doesn't even count the league's finalists from last spring, the Celtics and Lakers.

While just about everybody from New York to Los Angeles seems to be enjoying even more optimism than normally accompanies preseason, we now move to the downer part of the column, news from your Washington Wizards.

In case, since the NFL season isn't even six weeks old, you're simply not in professional basketball mode just yet, the Wizards are already on the wrong end of some very bad news.

Brendan Haywood, something of a late bloomer for the Wizards at center, is going to undergo surgery to repair a torn ligament in his right wrist. He will miss four to six months, according to source familiar with the situation. This comes at roughly the same time we find out that Antawn Jamison, who's been the only consistently healthy member of the team the last couple of years, suffered a knee contusion Tuesday night. And this comes just a few weeks after we learned that Gilbert Arenas, the $111 million man, is going to be out until January or so after a third knee surgery.

Damn.

Haywood has his share of haters, people who'll undoubtedly

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CNMI seeking East Asian Games membership

MARK RABAGO

The CNMI wants to become a member of the East Asian Games. Photo above shows CNMI athletes and officials who took part in the 2003 South Pacific Games in Suva, Fiji.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI is seeking membership in the East Asian Games which would provide Commonwealth athletes opportunities to compete off-island at a lower cost.

Michael A. White, president of the Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association, at the NMASA meeting last Thursday said he had already sent a letter to East Asian Games Association officials asking how can the CNMI become a member of the group, and he is still waiting for a response.

EAGA has nine members, including the

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All set for San Mig caging tomorrow

MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

The Inaugural San Miguel Beer Basketball League will finally uncork tomorrow with seven teams duking it out for the championship of the PILCOWA-organized caging competition.

PILCOWA sports coordinator Fernando "Pando" Muleta said everything is set for Sunday's opening ceremony which would include a parade of teams as well as Best Muse and Best Uniform contests.

Winners of both categories will take home handsome trophies courtesy of PILCOWA.

The parade will have the seven teams march from the Garapan Fishing Base to the league's venue at the CIC Centre basketball court along Beach Road. Participating teams, Muleta said, should assemble at the site no later than 3:30pm.

He added that PILCOWA has invited Philippine Consul General Wilfredo Maximo to serve as guest speaker of the event and he is also expected to join club president Ronnie Doca and Jun Concillado on center court for the opening toss.

After the opening rites, Muleta and PILCOWA officials will draw the four teams that will play in the opening day

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